

Prayer Letter of Douglas Wu and Family

January 1, 2020

Psalm 90:12 "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Praise the Lord for the following highlights of 2019: In January the combined CCIC STM team came to South Africa to equip and encourage us. We then started to look for a church in Johannesburg, and by end of February we approached the Christ Church Sandton, which we decided would be the venue in June for our gospel outreach effort. In parallel we also started a Bible study in Brother Chu's house. In March, we made arrangements to stay overnight at Brother Lin's house at Rustenburg every Sunday and Monday night until he sold the house, and Whitney started to teach children's beginning Chinese language class. By April we received instruction from CIM Executive Director to handover our ministry at the Pretoria church to Alex and Nicole Ko, as well as to serve separately. We'd be responsible for the Rustenburg church and to start gospel ministry in Johannesburg. Whitney and I traveled to Chicago in May to attend the commencement ceremony of our daughter Sharon, as she graduates from the Masters of Psychology program at Trinity Seminary. We then moved Sharon to San Jose for her one-year internship in the mental health ministry of Home of Christ 5 church. God provided living arrangement through Brother Chen's family, as well as a car for Sharon from Sister Mak. We started our gospel ministry at Johannesburg in June, and hosted CCIC's Brother Tarn, who held several workshops in Rustenburg church. CCIC's Elder Lee dropped by with a STM team in July to also further equip and encourage us. In August we flew to Taiwan with a heavy heart to attend the memorial service of my mentor, Rev. Zhu of my home church of Shipah Presbyterian Church. The event motivated me to take a closer look at my health. I discovered my old problem of arrhythmia has gotten worse a bit, and some heart discomfort pushed me to a diet regimen in September to control my weight. We prayed for the Lord to *teach us to number our days aright*. By October, Brother Chu in Johannesburg asked to stop the Bible study at his house, and by God's grace we started another Bible study on Tuesday nights. Meanwhile, six brothers and sisters in Rustenburg church were baptized that month. In November, our daughter Helen completed her physical therapy studies, and her brother Clarence entered his third year in college. Both took a break and traveled to San Jose to visit Sharon, while Whitney and I started to look for housing in Johannesburg. In December God helped to provide lodging for Helen's internship at the Welkom mines hospital in Free State. As Whitney and I continue to search for a suitable and safe housing in Johannesburg, we also thank the Lord for His abundant grace and provision!



Jan. – CCIC Combined STM Team Feb. – Approached Christ Church Sandton Mar. – Brother Lin's house



Apr. – Attending CCS worship May – Sharon's commencement June – Johannesburg worship starts



July – CCIC STM Team Aug. – Rev. Zhu's memorial service Sep. – Dieting due to heart discomfort



Oct. – Johannesburg Bible study 6 new Rustenburg B&S baptized Nov. – Helen & Clarence in San Jose

In 2019 we prayed in earnest about the pioneering gospel ministry in Johannesburg while balancing work in the Rustenburg church. We also prayed about our new empty nest situation, as well as about our body, heart, and mind in our ministry. Currently the Rustenburg church is the most stable with about 30 people attending worship service. But because all the brothers and sisters are small shop owners and they work 24/7 all year round, so all services are still held at night. Very few of them have higher education and we lack enough qualified people to serve in the church, especially in developing Bible study leaders. We've also seen a shift in the direction for the pioneering work in Johannesburg. Two years ago a Chinese church approached me because they needed a pastor. I asked CIM to discuss with the church, but negotiation was cut short due to differences in opinions. Nevertheless, CIM afterward still instructed us to start the gospel work in Johannesburg. After six months, and through God's guidance, we have a better understanding of our actual situation. Therefore, at the beginning of this new year, we ask for your prayers so we know *how to number our days aright*, to work efficiently and effectively, and for us to *gain a heart of*

wisdom with respect to our strategies. *Isaiah 43:19* “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” The Bible verse has been our hope and reliance in the Lord, and we ask for God’s mercy in our quest for the good reward over the worldly gains!



Rustenburg children Sunday school

Christmas performance

Rustenburg Sunday worship



Rustenburg brothers & sisters are all small shop owners

We’ve asked the Rustenburg church coworkers to start leading Bible studies and fellowship as they see fit, taking a step toward implementing the church organizational structure. We’ll also restart anew our pioneering work in Johannesburg under the guidance of Holy Spirit, for the LORD is our banner.

... **Our blog - <http://douglaswufamily.blogspot.tw/>**

E-mail address : douglas1218@telkomsa.net or douglaswu1218@gmail.com .

Praises & Intercession

1. Praise the Lord for He kept us safe through the Christmas season. It was the only year when no brothers and sisters were hit by crime.
2. Praise the Lord that Helen has successfully moved to Welkom to live with three other girls. The landlord’s attitude improved dramatically and became friendly after learning all four girls are Christians. They’ve also found an Afrikaner church.
3. Praise the Lord for Clarence was able to find school dorm space for his third year’s study. Please also pray for his heavier workload in the coming school year.
4. Praise the Lord that there was no disruption in power and water services during the Christmas holidays.
5. Praise the Lord for I’ve lost more weight, and my skin rash hasn’t resurfaced.
6. Praise the Lord for the blessings and accomplishments since we started to serve separately from Alex and Nicole Ko. Since there’s no overlap now, I’ll resume

issuing my newsletter at the beginning of the month starting in January. Please continue to pray for our family and CIM.

Prayer List

1. Pray for all facets of Helen's internship, such as her working relationship, social interactions, technical experience, etc. Please ask for God's grace for her.
2. Pray for our effort to set up a complete organizational structure in the Rustenburg church and to open a bank account for the church. We target to handover the task of leading Bible studies to other brothers and sisters within six months.
3. Pray for our plan to join the white church in Johannesburg, beginning with their Thursday morning Bible study, during the first phase of starting our gospel ministry. We hope to attract people through the opportunity to learn English.
4. Pray for God to provide a suitable house at a safe location in Johannesburg for us.
5. Pray for the worship services in Johannesburg that are combined with the white church until mid-January, and that the Tuesday night Bible study has been suspended.
6. Whitney and I are about to become empty nesters. Please continue to pray for us to be able to love God and love man more.
7. Pray for Helen's South Africa birth certificate application process as we wait for God's timing.
8. Pray for South Africa's political and crime situations. May God watch over the South African Chinese people and that they may enjoy peace in Jesus Christ.

Please send donations to: **Chinese International Missions**

P.O.Box 700185, San Jose, CA. 95170-0185, U.S.A (Please specify "For Douglas Wu")

Immanuel,

Clarence/Helen/Sharon Whitney/Douglas