



## Brazil's STM Reflections 2022 (Cont)

~Rev Wah-Yiu Fu

I learned that I have to rely more on God and not on myself, especially on my preparation. That is one of the weaknesses that I have to face, for often times I would over-prepare. In this mission trip I was reminded again and again that it did not matter how much or how well you might prepare. In one of the outings, I had asked before our trip whether I could use PowerPoint slides so I prepared accordingly. However, I ended up I not able to use them. And also because the time for the message was cut short, I ended up sharing a totally different message.

God is the great God and our Lord is the great savior. His love endures forever. On the surface Chinese people endured a lot of hardship for many years, and because of that there was a diaspora. Chinese people scattered all over the world simply looking for a better life. But just as what prophet Jeremiah declared, "*For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'*" (Jer. 29:11) God allows this to happen in order that many Chinese will have the chance to hear the gospel and to receive the eternal blessings from the Lord.

I witnessed the wonderful works of God in the lives of His people. In Porto Alegre, I saw how the Lord brought up a group of young people who loved the Lord and served tirelessly and faithfully. In Campinas, I witnessed how the Lord changed the lives of people there, especially the dedication of the co-workers there inspired me and they are testimonies of the faithfulness of God. He prepared a wonderful team, and we could complement each other in a very wonderful and harmonious way.

I did talk to one of the coworkers in Campinas. He just came to the Lord five years ago, yet he served so faithfully in the church. He was on fire for the Lord. He has to work long hours in his shops, yet he still served so fervently in the church. He shared with us how the Lord changed his life and also how the Lord changed his marriage, now both he and his wife serve in the Lord together. I will pray for all the people I met on this trip, and if possible, will try to send them a short message from time to time. Yes, I do want to support them and continue to pray in how I can do that.

We need to make disciples for the Lord. This is the core of the Great Commission. Also this is the main lesson that I learn during the Pandemics, we well as what I saw on this mission trip.

I will continue to love the Lord with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind and to serve Him faithfully and unreservedly in His church. I will continue to pray and to serve with the Go Team of our church to preach the gospel to the ends of the world and will also be a faithful and joyful giver.

This is what I am trying to do everyday. And I know it is not how much I love the Lord, but how much He loves me.

~Fisher Chiang

This article is to commemorate a test that the STM team encountered in Brazil, which was the biggest crisis we encountered, and also our greatest turning point.

The first ministry we were serving in Belém was free clinic and gospel visitation. On that morning, the team went to the church to join the free clinic team, Rev Jorge Loo, a Brazilian missionary elder, and Mrs. Loo. After that, Rev Loo found a local co-worker for us, a Brazilian named John. He can speak English and some Chinese, so he can guide us and translate for us. Just when everything was arranged, a gust of wind blew from nowhere, and resident sister Qiong Zhang suddenly suggested to Rev Loo that since Sugar (my wife) was pregnant, she should cancel her visit so as not to have to move around too much. With everyone's consent, we left Sugar in the free clinic, and ready to embark on a mighty journey to spread the gospel.

Just as the six of us stepped into the elevator, a Brazilian pastor suddenly appeared and wanted to take the elevator down together. We wound up with a small elevator, literally stuffed with seven people. Just when I felt it was not crowded, suddenly there was a lightness on the bottom of my feet (as I murmured inside: this elevator is moving a bit fast!), followed by a loud "Bang!" With sounds of "It hurts!" I suddenly realized that because the elevator was too heavy, I fell straight down the shaft in a free fall.

Because this unexpected accident was accompanied by injuries to some team members, everyone couldn't react for a while. When I came back to my senses, I wanted to leave the malfunctioned elevator quickly. As a result, I immediately faced a bigger difficulty—elevator door failure. I looked around the inside of the elevator and had to marvel that it was actually a steel wall with no escape doors at all. As a result, everyone took out their mobile phones to ask for help, but found that none could receive a signal. Then, someone started to knock on the elevator and shouted for help, but it was not the previously decided meeting time yet. Besides, we had just set out and should only return to the church at noon, so during this period, our "absence" was a very natural thing. No one will notice any irregularity. Also, how long can we last in this elevator with the oxygen level gradually diminishing? Knowing that our co-workers are upstairs but unable to ask them for help, it is not an exaggeration to say it is indeed very far away.

I began to realize that this is not only a live-action escape room, but a survival battle between time and space.

Wanting to get out of the elevator at any cost, I turned on the distress mode on my mobile phone and called for help from my relatives and friends in Taiwan. But I failed. Fortunately, the two Brazilian brothers, who were closest to the elevator door, began to receive a weak signal. They began to ask for help. And although we couldn't understand what they were saying, at least there was a glimmer of life. At

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the same time, I found that my phone seemed to be able to receive a little Wi-Fi signal from the church, which means that I can hopefully contact our co-workers on the third floor. With the help of John and Mrs Christine Pi, I made the call in the shortest time possible. Fortunately, although Rev Loo was surprised by the phone call from Taiwan, he was very alert to answer it. Only then did he know that we had an accident. After that, the Brazilian pastor and sister Zhang Qiong came to the scene one after another, hoping to rescue us. Even though the elevator was old, it was very stubborn and did not let us exit. Only the look of anxious hope and waiting for help was conveyed to the restless people outside through the transparent and narrow window.

The team members in the elevator kept praying silently. But the elevator technician, who we had been waiting for a long time, made every breath become more prominent. The rising room temperature drove sweat to slowly cover my whole body, which made me start to doubt: why did I come to this trip? We invested a lot of time and resources to travel from Taiwan to Brazil. And now we haven't even started our ministry, we are about to meet the Lord? After all, we came here, having spent so much time and energy, not to be locked in here!

People inside and outside the elevator have done everything they can to finally understand a cruel truth: there are things we cannot change. All that is left is for us to wait, to wait for the only key that can rescue us from peril.

Finally, the technician came. I saw him leaning on the door and turning it a few times, as if opening the door of a house with his eyes closed. "Click!", and the door opened. The moment I stepped out of the elevator, I realized how blessed it is to be able to breathe a large gulp of fresh air.

That day's visitation ministry was postponed, and we became the first patients in the free clinic service. Fortunately, the injured team member's knee did not fracture, and all the other members were almost unscathed. The most amazing thing is that Sugar didn't get trapped with us in the elevator. This is really God's protection and care.

Up till then, we have not walked out of the church and led people to the Lord, but we have become witnesses of being born again and benefactors of salvation first! I couldn't help lamenting: God, your wisdom is immeasurable!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please pray urgently for the normal power supply in South Africa. Most people do not pay electricity bills. Local government also spends shortfalls in collecting electricity bills, and the president appoints professionals to rectify the power company. But the equipment of coal-fired power plants has been maliciously damaged! .
2. South African government's emergency use of diesel to generate electricity, resulting in high oil prices and high price inflation. Please pray for this matter.
3. Please pray for the evangelization ministry of Santeng Church in Jo-burg. On the 5th of next month, another couple will immigrate back to China. Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare more help, bring back the lost sheep outside his flock, and increase the number of saved souls to Himself.
4. Pastor Alex has begun to plan Christmas gospel activities. Please ask the Lord to lead them and their co-workers to negotiate good arrangements and provide for all needs.
5. South Africa has had frequent power outages recently, 10 hours a day during peak hours, which has had a great impact on online gatherings. Pray for God's help to solve the problem as soon as possible.
6. Please pray for the physical worship of the PECCC Church. The number of people during the service is still unstable, and the related ministry still needs to be restored to normal. Ask the Lord to restore the hearts of the brothers and sisters.
7. Find a suitable seminary student to lead young people for the Belo Horizonte Church.
8. Next month Rev Loo, Minister Yip Dan and Sister Fu will go to Belo Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church for a short-term mission trip.
9. Pray for peace in Ukraine and for safety for partners at House of Mercy. There have been increased bombing and missile strikes on civilian locations over the last few weeks and lives are continually being lost. However, praise God that many refugees are coming to the Lord through the work of House of Mercy.
10. Inflation, the depreciation of the Ghana cedi, and added government fees are severely affecting the lives of the pastors and teachers that we support. Please pray that they will be able to make a living and also support their families.
11. Pray for the training and discipling of pastors both in Ghana and Togo. Pray for CIM's guidance and direction as to how we can come alongside and assist.
12. Pray for our upcoming BOD meeting in Toronto on November 5 and 6. This will be our first in person meeting since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic.
13. **Pray for the recruiting effort underway to fill job vacancies in CIM for a Director of Ministry to oversee STM and daily operations**, and an Executive Director successor. If you know of anyone who is interested and qualifies, please contact us.
14. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to join the ministry so God's kingdom would be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision for all the financial needs of CIM.

## NOTE

Please call 408-596-4567 to contact CIM for questions or comments. Thank you for your continual support.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Sept 2022

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>General</b>	\$57,709	\$15,021	\$42,688
<b>Missions</b>	102,616	\$85,579	\$17,037
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$160,325</u>	<u>\$100,600</u>	<u>\$59,725</u>

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