



Experience as a First-Time Board Director

~Grace Lin

Thank God and praise God! I was an insignificant and useless vessel, but God gave me great grace to contribute my modest efforts to the missionary work in Brazil. As a director of CIM for the first time, I thought I would "apprentice" how to first serve with other spiritual elders and coworkers. Unexpectedly, I entered the "actual combat" state at our first meeting (October 11, 2022). Brother David who had promised to train me soon had to rest for at least half a year due to health reasons. Bottom line is that I had to immediately change from a "bench player" to a "co-starting player"—contacting supporters of missions in South Africa, communicating with missionaries in Brazil, contacting supporters of missions in Brazil, etc.

To be honest, on one hand, I feel that my spiritual life is still very weak, and I have very little experience in missionary serving. I feel that my energy and time are very limited, and I cannot undertake the heavy responsibility of field supervision. But thank the Lord - His grace is sufficient! With the encouragement of the former Executive Director, Christine Pi, and the strong support of brother David and other coworkers, after four months of hard work, I gradually entered the serving status. Let me share with you some of my experience as a board director for the first time.

1. Communication with missionaries – God’s kingdom transcends the limitations of time and distance. Thank God for providing many modern technological means to help us work for the Lord.

- A. Regular monthly meetings: Once a month with Brazilian missionaries Rev Loo and Pastor Ye, on regular zoom video conferences. Learn about the monthly work arrangement and progress, the current situation of the church brothers and sisters and seekers, personal difficulties of the missionaries, and make plans for the next step together, etc.
- B. Emergency meetings: Sometimes “plans can’t keep up with changes”. The missionaries and I have the flexibility to hold impromptu meetings to find ways to deal with emergencies. For example, our original plan in February, because of the more than usual traffic backup caused by the carnival, causing the law and order to be quite worrisome, so the original plan needed to be temporarily changed. The local church was led by two missionaries, and Rev Loo led the zoom Sunday worship locally. Then he and his wife used the free clinic to attract people to the meeting with the mercy and love of Christ; Pastor Ye stayed in Sao Paulo and led the online worship through zoom Bible study and discipleship.
- C. Timely updates: On the WhatsApp messaging platform, we receive photos and short videos from the Brazilian mission field from time to time, which not only narrows the difference in time and space, but also allows us to see God’s rich provision and wonderful deeds. I feel very close to the ministry now and very motivated.

2. Pray for missionary work –

As the newest board director of CIM, I genuinely admit that there is no better way than to pray. In the face of complex and local situations and people who are far away, I often feel confused, bewildered, and powerless. We must humbly bow before the throne of God’s grace every day and entrust our mis-

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P.O.Box 700185
San Jose
CA 95170-0185 · USA

[TEL \(408\) 489-3508](tel:(408)489-3508)

www.cimusa.org

sionary work (including each CIM director, missionaries in South Africa and Brazil, organizations, churches, and individuals who support us, and local brothers and sisters in Brazil) one by one to the Lord. In prayer, I beg the Holy Spirit to enlighten me. I can always see how ignorant, shallow, and incompetent I am. I must completely surrender under the authority of God, give up my own thoughts, and simply obey the leading of the Holy Spirit, so that I can move forward steadily.

Thank God for "pruning" me through serving in CIM, and may my life be continuously renewed and grown by the Lord to bear more fruit. Pray that God will continue to lead and preserve the ministry of CIM with His loving kindness!

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thank the Holy Spirit for healing Whitney's gastric ulcer and other diseases through a Dr. Zhang. Thank God also that he, in turn, introduced Dr. Lin's diagnosis and treatment of Rev Wu's arrhythmia and atrial fibrillation, a 30-year-old disease.
2. Rev Wu is slowly recovering. His heartbeat is now all dependent on the pacemaker. It is fixed at 60 beats per minute. He is grateful that the wound has not yet inflamed, but his right leg seems to be strained like a tendon. Walking is difficult and painful. The follow-up went well and he and Whitney look forward to returning to South Africa at the end of February.
3. Pray for the brothers and sisters of Sandton Church in Johannesburg to actively participate in the English worship of the CCS white-people church. May the Lord keep the brothers and sisters there safe.
4. Please pray for the new year's ministry plan and the equipping of the coworkers of Pastor Alex Ko and ask the Lord to lead the church's physical worship to stability and the recovery of various ministries.
5. Please pray for the evangelical friends who have emotional problems and the young people who need counseling in the church that Pastor Ko have recently contacted. May the Lord give them wisdom to lead and help them.
6. Pray that God will raise up more coworkers in the Chinese Baptist Church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
7. Pray for the sick members of the Belo church. Brother Yang suffered a stroke and is currently hospitalized. Brother Rodolfo's father is also recovering at home from a mild stroke.
8. May God give wisdom to the brothers and sisters in the Belo church to spread the gospel to their relatives and friends in the local area, and to have beautiful life testimonies.
9. Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine. The invasion rages on and innocent lives are lost each day. Pray for House of Mercy as they take care of refugees, physically and spiritually. Pray that there will be doors for our Ukraine Crisis Fund as there are tremendous needs for the refugees.
10. Pray for the pastors and teachers that CIM Canada supports in Ghana and Togo. Inflation is still greatly affecting their lives. Pray that there will be donors for our benevolent fund so we can help with some of their physical needs.
11. 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.
12. 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

Jan 2023

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$4,575	\$1,157	\$3,418
Missions	\$14,588	\$12,255	\$2,333
Total	<u>\$19,163</u>	<u>\$13,412</u>	<u>\$5,751</u>

To contribute to CIM ministries:

- 1) Make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
- 2) Donate online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!



P. O. Box 700185 , San Jose, CA 95170-0185 · USA

TEL : 408 -596-4567 www.cimusa.org

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