



# Chinese International Missions, Inc.

Special Report

## Rev. Douglas Wu resigned, effective in August 2023, due to his weaknesses.

Rev. Douglas Wu, a missionary of CIM in South Africa, was admitted to the hospital a few months ago due to abnormal heartbeat. After installing a pacemaker, his condition gradually improved. Later it was discovered that part of the hip joint of his right thigh has dead body tissues due to an inadequate blood supply to part of his body, with one-third of them collapsed, so an artificial hip had to be installed. During this period, in addition to asking the churches to intercede, CIM's South African Committee urgently approved Rev. Douglas and Whitney Wu to travel to Taiwan to receive medical treatment at the doctor and hospital of their choice. Recently, they have been arranged to stay in Taiwan for the hip surgery.

After nearly two months of consultation and discussion between Rev. Wu and CIM Executive Committee, Rev Douglas and Whitney Wu requested to resign from CIM's Board on June 5, proposing the termination to take effect on August 1. CIM agreed with Rev. Wu's decision with great reluctance and passed the motion to grant them to resign on August 1 of this year. Rev. Wu joined CIM more than 19 years ago and was assigned to the South African field. During this period, he was faithful to the Lord and the Gospel. CIM is very grateful.

CIM would like to take this opportunity to announce this news to all supporters and intercessors. Thank you for your care and support for Rev. Wu's family in the past. We also urge all churches and brothers and sisters in the Lord to pray for the smooth and safe process of Rev. Wu's medical treatment and recovery. We also specially invited the wife of the late Rev. Clarence Pi, the founding director-general of CIM, the emeritus Executive Director and Board member Mrs. Christine Pi to write an article detailing the relationship between Rev. Wu, CIM, and the South African field, and be grateful for God's use of him as an evangelist.

### Special Feature: "There is a time for everything"

Christine Pi (CIM Emeritus Executive Director, Board Member)

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. God has made everything beautiful in its time, yet men cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end."* ~Ecclesiastes 3:1,11.

Rev. Douglas Wu has submitted his resignation to CIM, effective August 1, 2023. The Board has accepted his final resignation decision, and we know that God has his timing and that there is a time for everything.

I still remember 27 years ago, in October 1996, when Douglas brought his newly married wife Whitney, from Johannesburg to Pretoria. They had called to inquire about the Bible study meeting we were holding in our home. My late husband, Rev. Clarence Pi, and I, with our three children, had just arrived in Pretoria from the United States in July of that year. In August, we began to visit local Chinese and believers. In October, we started a Bible study meeting at our home. It happened that I was the one who picked up the phone when Douglas asked if there was a Chinese Bible study meeting here. I said yes, every Sunday at 6 p.m. After that, our family began to get to know him and his wife better. Douglas was baptized in a local Baptist church, and Whitney was not a believer at that time. After that October afternoon, they began attending Bible study meetings with us.

Rev. Pi and I started the Pretoria Evangelical Chinese Christian church (PECCC) in March 1997. Rev. Pi witnessed Douglas' zealous service in his pursuit of the Bible. Rev. Pi invited him to join the worship team to lead the singing. Douglas told Rev. Pi that occasionally he would go to the casino to play the slot machine, and that he knew this was not a good testimony. Rev. Pi asked him to pray to God before accepting the worship leader position. Later, under work of the Holy Spirit, Douglas changed and began to actively participate in various ministries for the church. In August 1997, PECCC was officially established, and Douglas was ordained as a deacon of the church together with three others. Mr. Samuel Ko, Pastor Alex Ko's father, was also one of these ordained that day. In 1998, Rev. Pi wanted to ask if Douglas would consider giving up his job and serving God full time. After several months of prayer, Douglas quitted his job and in September 1998, he began coming to our house every morning to learn under the guidance of Rev. Pi. At that point, we considered sending Douglas to seminary to receive formal theological training. We planned to introduce him to study at the Hong Kong Bible Seminary or Singapore Bible College because we had acquaintances there. However, before things could proceed, Rev. Pi was suddenly taken back to his heavenly home by the Lord on November 11, 1998. Rev. Pi's unexpected death made a great impact on Douglas and affected him greatly.

In 1999, due to some problems with his residency in South Africa, Douglas and his family had to move back to Taiwan. After returning to Taiwan, he decided to attend the Christian Disciple Training Institute, founded by Elder Wu Yong, to receive training for Christian ministries. In 2003, when he was getting ready to graduate, he applied to the Chinese International Missions (CIM) to serve as a missionary to South Africa, the place where he became a believer. CIM accepted his application and sent him to South Africa as a missionary in January 2004 to assist Pastor & Mrs. Liu Chi, who were then ministering as CIM missionaries at PECCC in 2000.

In October 2004, Pastor Liu and his wife returned to the United States on furlough, and the leadership of PECCC was temporarily handed over to Douglas. Upon their return, as experienced

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[P.O.Box 700185](mailto:P.O.Box 700185)  
[San Jose](mailto:San Jose)  
[CA 95170-0185](mailto:CA 95170-0185) · USA

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

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missionaries, the Lius shifted their ministry to work among the Chinese graduate students at the University of Pretoria. Later they established a new church called "Chinese Church". Because of this change, the young missionary Douglas began to lead at PECCC.

Douglas devoted himself to serving, hardworking, and preaching the Gospel among the Chinese in Pretoria, especially among the *Fuqing* people from Mainland China. Douglas and Whitney achieved great trust among them. The couple worked tirelessly to lead a weekly Bible study meeting in the *Fuqing* community in Rosslyn, near the vicinity of Pretoria. After the group dissolved to join the Pretoria *Fuqing* group, every other Saturday afternoon Douglas drove two hours to Middelburg to evangelize to the *Fuqing* community there. God was gracious to the Chinese in that city, and God also gave Douglas a smooth path along the way.

In Thanksgiving 2009, Rev. David Chu was invited to Northern California to speak at a church winter retreat. He was from the Taipei *Shipai* Friendship Church, which was the parent church of Douglas in Taiwan. After the retreat, he met with a few CIM board members to propose the ordination of Douglas as a minister. In November 2010, Douglas was ordained by the Taipei *Shipai* Friendship Church and CIM at PECCC in South Africa. After the ordination, Douglas continued to serve as a missionary pastor in South Africa. At this time, according to unofficial statistics, there were about 350,000 Chinese in South Africa, of which about 150,000 were from *Fuqing*. In 2012, Douglas established the Pretoria *Fuqing* Christian Church. Later, he was invited to visit the *Fuqing* people in Rustenburg, and he started a monthly Bible study meeting there as well. Under the blessings of God, the number of people in this study group increased from a dozen to thirty some. In 2013, the Rustenburg Chinese Christian Church was established.

During this time, as Douglas continued his ministries at PECCC, he involved in the training of young believers; He devoted his time in cultivating the next generation to serve the church. Among this group of young people, Douglas identified Alex Ko and his wife Nicole as promising instruments of God and hoped that they would be willing to serve God full-time. By the grace of God, Alex's family was called and began studying in the Christian Disciple Training Institute in Taiwan (Douglas's alma mater) in 2013 to receive ministry training. In 2017, Alex also applied to CIM to join the missionary ministry. Alex and Nicole were accepted as CIM missionaries, and in the autumn of 2017, they were sent back to South Africa to work with Douglas.

Over the years, Douglas often mentioned the need to open new fields in South Africa, particularly among the Chinese in Cape Town and Johannesburg. The CIM Board discussed his proposals for many years, and at the end agreed to Douglas's suggestion of opening up a new field in Johannesburg as a first attempt. With Alex and Nicole joining the team in South Africa, it seemed that the time was perfect for Douglas and Whitney to go to Johannesburg, where he had longed to preach the gospel for many years. Therefore, at the end of 2018 the Board decided to send Douglas to Johannesburg to start a new ministry. In the beginning of 2019, Douglas was put in charge of the ministries of Johannesburg and Rustenburg fields; and let the young ministry Alex Ko take charge of PECCC, just as young Douglas took charge of PECCC.

In the beginning of 2023, we care about the health issues of Douglas. In April, CIM received an email letter from Douglas unexpectedly, mentioning that he was unable to continue serving due to physical constraints. In those months he experienced several medical issues – including a heart surgery and an upcoming artificial hip replacement surgery. After many discussions of alternatives, communication and prayers, the Board came to a consensus with Douglas, and he submitted a letter of resignation on June 5. The Board of Directors of CIM approved Douglas's resignation, effective August 1, 2023.

Douglas served in CIM's South Africa field for nearly 20 years. God has blessed him with many blessings including leading people to the Lord, shepherding churches, and establishing several local churches. Glory be to God. May God bless him and restore his health quickly. May God remember Douglas and Whitney's service in South Africa!

The CIM field in South Africa, from the pioneering work of the late Rev. Clarence Pi to the present, has continued ministering faithfully to the Chinese for the past 27 years. It is all because of God's grace. This little missions organization has gone through and overcome difficulties many times since Rev. Pi's death. There have been changes in personnel and many changes in the culture, but what has not changed is God and His faithfulness to his people. Because it is the work of God, it is the Lord who opens the door for us: "What the Lord opens no one can shut."

May more Chinese come to know the true light and accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that God will continue watching over his people and providing faithful leaders for this mission field in the days to come. To God be the glory!

## THANKSGIVING

- Thanks be to God, Rev. Wu's heart rate can be adjusted to 65 beats per minute after the installation of a pacemaker, and he is now not feeling as breathless when climbing stairs.
- Rev. Wu said that the "angel" sent by the Holy Spirit led him to the orthopedic doctor for consultation and found that the hip joint of his right thigh has collapsed, so that Rev. Wu could start the treatment immediately, and kept the hip joint of the left thigh from collapsing as well. God is good! Thank God.
- Rev. Wu received the Taiwan Disability Certificate so he can now take public transportation to see a doctor for only one-third of the fee. Thank God.

## PRAYER ITEMS

- Rev. Wu received artificial hip replacement surgery on his right thigh at Taipei Veterans General Hospital on June 17th in Taiwan. Please pray for the recovery of the wound after the operation and ask the God of Jehovah Rapha to heal him.
- Rev. Wu's recovery from his thigh surgery will take about three months. During this period, he will stay at the home of Mrs. Wu's brother-in-law in Taiwan to recuperate. Thank God and pray for the Lord to keep Rev. Wu's recovery process smooth and safe.
- May the Lord take care of Rev. Wu's wife and family members. Their eldest daughter, Sharon, is working in the US, their second daughter, Helen, is working in the UK, and their youngest son, Clarence, is studying at the South African School of Dentistry. May God bless Rev. Wu's family even more.



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

TEL : 408 -596-4567 [www.cimusa.org](http://www.cimusa.org)

E-mail : [cimusa1992@gmail.com](mailto:cimusa1992@gmail.com)