



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

10.01.20223

Go with the "wind"

~Rev Yoman Man,
Chair, CIM Board

In the Hebrew language, the same word for wind, "*Ruach*", can be interpreted as "*breath*", or "*spirit*" or "*Holy Spirit*". Genesis Chapter 1, verse 2 says, "*the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*" When people read, "*The Ruach of God was hovering over the waters,*" they will naturally think of the Holy Spirit in creation as a huge wind, running freely on the water with infinite power.

In Galatians, Paul reminded the disciples of the Lord Jesus, "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). Using the thinking of the Old Testament, we can imagine ourselves as believers in the Lord. Like a boat, it goes with the wind of the Holy Spirit. However, Paul said that this Holy Spirit, who changes our lives with great power like a strong wind, actually waits for us instead of forcing us to rely on Him to act! That is to say, He allows us to choose to go with the "wind" or to go against the "wind". Although we know that "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." (Ephesians 1:4) Those who belong to the Lord will eventually become holy, but those who belong to the Lord must be willing to go with the "wind" so that they will not take more wrong paths and need God's discipline (Hebrews 12:10-11).

Sometimes, when we encounter danger in the waves of life, it is the result of going "against the wind". The same is true when it comes to preaching the Gospel. Jonah is a typical example of walking "against the wind." God commanded him to preach in the city of Nineveh, but he indulged his old domineering and rebellious temperament and went against God's will (Jonah 1:2-3). He took a boat in the opposite direction to avoid God and ordered everyone to go with him. People on the boat almost died in the storm. Finally, he spent three days and three nights in the belly of the big fish arranged by God. After going through the "bleaching" process of the fish's gastric juice, he seemed to have received a strange training lesson from God's discipline. In the end, he thanked God for his benevolent generosity and His saving grace. After he was rescued, he was willing to change, acknowledge God's sovereignty, obey God's leadership, and was willing to go to Nineveh, a city "he didn't want to go" to preach the Gospel. God indeed used him, through the doctrine of judgment, to cause the people of Nineveh, who had been prepared by the Holy Spirit, to repent.

When Bible readers thought that Jonah's message was over, to their surprise, Jonah's old domineering and rebellious temperament resurfaced again. He used his knowledge of God's righteousness to attack God's tolerance of sinners. He was dissatisfied with God for giving sinners new chances. He expressed his discontent in a withered castor tree, even begged for death for himself. (Jonah 4:4-8) The Bible does not tell us Jonah's ending, but it tells us that preaching the Gospel is preaching God's love and God's willingness to use a tolerant heart to give people the chance to repent. In the time of Jonah, the strong wind, the big fish, Jonah, and the Ninevites all influenced each other. In the wind of the Holy Spirit, Jonah, who was unwilling to change, and the bad guy who was willing to change became a strong contemporary contrast.

Today, our general environment, ourselves, and the people to whom we

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preach the Gospel, all influence each other. Will we encounter dangers in life, and will we become a "big fish rescue" in life? Will the protagonist with great humor undergo a super "bleaching" process, or will he learn the lessons of a withered castor tree, etc., and encounter this series of major missionary issues? It all depends on whether we go with the "wind".

"If you live by the Spirit, then walk by the Spirit."

I urge you to try to quiet down, reassess the past, and look forward to the future. What inspiration does this picture of the Holy Spirit like wind have for you?

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please continue to pray for the recovery of Rev Douglas Wu's health. And lift up Whitney's worries and fatigue as she cares for his every need.
2. On September 24th, PECCC held a Gospel Sunday during the Mid-Autumn Festival. We thanked the Lord for leading all the services that day and working in the hearts of our gospel friends.
3. In October, Minister Alex Ko will start holding baptism classes for two sisters. Please ask the Lord to prepare and strengthen their hearts.
4. Please pray for the church's youth ministry. As they grow up, they encounter more and more problems. Ask the Lord to give Alex and Nicole the patience and wisdom to guide the young people to know God.
5. Pray for brother Hung of Belo Horizonte Church to be baptized. He has accepted the Lord and now we will give him baptism classes.
6. Pray for a new seeker, Brother Chen Jinxiong, who is from Putian. He is round 30 years old.
7. Pray for the physical recovery of the 74-year-old Sister Zhong Yuxia. She suffered a stroke last week and injured her right limb. Right now she is not able to move. She will start physical therapy soon.
8. 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 also for the "Mercy in the Midst of Turmoil" September trip to Canada and for Pastor Vasyl and Pastor Vlad. Pray that there will be donors for the Roma Ministry Fund to support these Ukraine Sharing Events and CIM's Roma Ministries in Ukraine.
9. Pray for the pastors and teachers that we support in Ghana and Togo. Inflation is still greatly affecting their lives. Pray for our ministries in Ghana and Togo to share God's love with the local Africans and help with some of their physical needs. Pray for the formation of STM teams in 2024. Pray for Pastor Matthieu who is currently in Togo meeting with the pastors of EGCT. Pray for fruitful meetings.
10. Please continue to 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.
11. 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

Aug 2023

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$59,389	\$10,483	\$48,906
Missions	\$79,981	\$81,712	-\$1,731
Total	<u>\$139,370</u>	<u>\$92,195</u>	<u>\$47,175</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!



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