



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

05.01.2025

Seize the Opportunity to Share the Gospel

~ Pastor Alex Ko

Ecc 11:4-6, “Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.”

In the Bible, sowing seeds is often used to illustrate preaching the Gospel. And when is a good time to preach the Gospel? Christmas, Easter, New Year, or some special day? We usually think that those are a good time to preach the Gospel, but what about other days? Or what kind of people are more likely to believe in the Lord? What method can more effectively lead people to believe in the Lord? I wonder if you have ever thought about this question? Maybe you have heard many different answers.

But the Bible says in 1 Cor 12:3 “...and no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” In fact, no matter when, who, or how, the most important thing is the work of the Holy Spirit, “The work of God, the Maker of all things.” The Scripture encourage us: “Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.”

We don’t know what a good time is, but every seed we sow may be a good time; conversely, every seed not sown is a missed opportunity.

I still remember when I was in my teens, I went on a trip with my friends. Unfortunately, a traffic accident occurred on the way. I saw with my own eyes that the car of my friend in front of me lost control and rolled over. One of my friends was thrown out of the car in front and died on the spot. When I saw this unbelieving friend lying in front of me, I regretted a lot. I thought that if I had preached the Gospel to him the night before, perhaps he would have believed in the Lord and the outcome would have been different.

I really hope that I have the gift of preaching the Gospel, but I am tongue-tied and shy, and I had not received any training at that time. Sometimes I could think about it in my mind but could not express it in words. But thank God, even so, God still allowed me to successfully spread the Gospel to my then girlfriend, now my wife, who was originally a Buddhist. I never expected that the Lord would later call me to serve Him and become a missionary.

When I was still in seminary, I saw some older sisters who were particularly gifted in evangelism, and I was really envious. Although I did not become like those I envied after graduation and even after I started serving, I knew that the Lord was still willing to use someone like me. I also realized that the Gospel is the power of God, not based on my eloquence or ability. And the Bible says, “For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.”—2 Cor 8:12.

Therefore, the best time is not to look at the wind or clouds, the environment or ourselves, but the moment we are willing to trust in the Lord and do it.

Last November, we went to visit a brother who had moved from Pretoria to another city to open a shop. That city was called Polokwane, which was more than 200 kilometers away from Pretoria where we served, and about a three-hour drive. Through this visit, God showed us the need for the Gospel among the local Chinese. There are about a few hundred Chinese households in the area, but with no Chinese churches or pastors to pastor and preach the Gospel locally. Although there are not many Chinese Christians there, we met a family that was very hungry for the Lord. Although they did not attend church, every Sunday night the whole family would pray together and listen to some online sermons. They also often prayed that God would send them a pastor. Their testimony deeply moved Nicole and me.

After we returned, we prayed and sought, and finally it became clear that God wanted to lead us to start a new ministry in Polokwane. In order to do that, there must be many things that need to be adjusted and arranged. But since we are sure it is God’s leading, we decided to drive there on the last Sunday afternoon of every month, worship together in that brother’s store in the evening, and visit the local Chinese on the following Monday. Thank the Lord, as we took the first step, the obstacles were solved one by one, and God’s guidance became clearer and clearer. There are currently ten steady brothers and sisters in

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the worship service at Polokwane, and I meet new Gospel friends every time I go there. At other times, I also share my spiritual experiences with them online, and some brothers and sisters will also join our Pretoria Church's online prayer meetings.

In reality, there will never be a completely flat, wide open road without sand and rocks. What we need to confirm most is the direction of the Lord's guidance. It is inevitable that there will be difficulties along the way. As Paul wrote when he was in Ephesus, "because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me."—1 Cor 16:9.

In fact, sometimes, without any certainty, we will make decisions based on a piece of news, a policy, some propaganda, or following a trend that we do not fully understand, and we may even be willing to invest a lot of money, time, and energy. How much more so, when the Lord inspires and calls us to step out for Him, shouldn't we have more faith and courage to respond to the Lord, because this Gospel is the power of God, carries promises and blessings, and is for saved souls, God's joy and glory. I believe even more that every Gospel seed we sow will not be in vain.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thank God for leading Pastor Alex and Nicole to serve in Polokwane, keeping them safe during each trip and visit, and allowing them to meet more local Chinese and build relationships with them. May the Lord use them to lead local believers and Gospel friends to worship and know the Lord together.
2. Thank God for leading Pastor Alex and his team to start a student fellowship at the University of Pretoria, and for having new Gospel friends join. Pray that the Lord will continue to protect and guide the development of the ministry, strengthen the hearts of the brothers and sisters, and allow Gospel friends to know the Lord in the fellowship.
3. Pray for the Belo Horizonte Church's online discipleship courses (Tuesdays), Bible study (Thursdays), and Saturday prayer meeting ministries during the week.
4. Pray for new believers, asking the Lord to strengthen their faith.
5. Pray for the care and Gospel visiting ministry of Belo Horizonte Church. Also pray for the registration of the Church and the search for a new gathering place. Ask the Lord to open the way and prepare.
6. Pray for Janice in Ghana as she continues with her ministry as CIM Canada's international worker there. Pray for the planning of her home assignment in Canada from June to September.
7. Pray for guidance and direction for their next steps for their Roma Ministry. Pray for the planning of sending an exploratory STM team to North Macedonia and Serbia in September.
8. 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.
9. 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

Mar 2025

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$8,819	\$4,666	\$4,153
Missions	\$12,236	\$11,013	\$1,223
Total	<u>\$21,055</u>	<u>\$15,679</u>	<u>\$5,376</u>

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- 1) Make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
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