



# Chinese International Missions, Inc.

06.01.2025

## Short-Term Mission Trip: A Journey of Growth, Service, and Faith

~ Hayward Man

Short-Term Mission has always been one of the emphases for CIM. In the past years, many have benefited from cross-cultural opportunities to Brazil and South Africa through CIM. Though I have yet to join one of these wonderful ministries, God has blessed me opportunities to serve in Taiwan through STM since 2006. God also had graciously entrusted me with opportunities to lead STM in seven occasions.

STM can often be seen as a chance to make a difference of the life of others. But what many of the STM members discovered is that God often uses these trips just as powerfully to shape their own hearts. The lessons they brought back can be humbling, stretching, and transformational. This article contains stories and lessons I have personally encountered. My prayer is that these stories can highlight some of the many valuable aspects of joining a STM trip.

**In a Hot Summer Month**, a STM team from a North American Chinese church traveled to Taiwan for a two-week outreach in partnership with local churches. Their purpose was simple: to encourage local believers, support ongoing ministry where needed, and share the love of Christ through service and relationship.

**Humility Comes First**—After hours of long travel, the team arrived at their destination. Greeted by the hosting missionary family in extreme hot weather, the team hit the ground running. During orientation, one of the earliest lessons the team learned was the importance of humility. It's easy to arrive in another country thinking you're there to "help" or "fix" something. But the moment the team got to know the local believers, it became clear that the church was strong, faithful, and deeply invested in ministry and the community. Pastors, lay leaders, and church members weren't waiting for outside help to begin any ministry; they were already on mission. The STM wasn't to start something new; they were to join a story already unfolding.

Team members were also struck by the hospitality of the people they met. The local believers, with their modest resources, provided much needed assistance throughout their time in Taiwan. Accommodation requests made by the team were met with outpouring responses. Their joyful generosity was humbling. It turned assumptions upside down. This shift in perspective was freeing. It removed pressure to "make something happen." Instead, the focus turned to encouragement and partnership.

As Philippians 2:3–4 reminds us: *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves."* That verse became more than a teaching—it became a daily challenge. To truly serve, the team had to listen more than speak, follow more than lead, and allow themselves to be learners, not experts.

### People Over Projects

The mission trip involved several practical service projects which includes hosting learning activities for children and helping with conversational English classes. While these projects were meaningful, what stood out most to the team were the people—not the tasks.

Our team was staying with a missionary couple while waiting to join a scheduled prayer meeting together at the church. However, when it was just about the time to leave, a neighbor of the missionaries showed up at their door, visibly distressed. The missionaries invited him in and after a brief introduction, the neighbor began pouring out what was on his heart. The missionaries listened patiently and prayed over this man. We had learned at a later time (since they were speaking in Taiwanese) that his struggle with alcohol addiction had worsened. In the end, we were about 45 minutes late to the prayer meeting. But this experience was eye-opening for the team as we witnessed how the missionaries cared for this man at his time of need.

In a results-driven world, it's tempting to measure the success of a mission trip by how much gets done. But ministry, at its core, is relational. 1 Thessalonians 2:8 reflects this truth: *"We loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."* Taiwan reminded the team that slowing down to see and know people is where much of the real ministry happens.

### Cultural Awareness: Be a Guest, Not a Hero

An essential part of the team's growth was learning to observe the culture they had entered. Taiwan is rich with history, tradition, and unspoken social cues that are easy to overlook if you're moving too fast. The team quickly realized that being effective guests required intentional cultural awareness.

One key learning moment in the trip was about gift giving. While it is customary in North America to give gifts during first meeting, the team leaders advised his teammates to give gifts to the nationals at the end instead. Not understanding the intention, a teammate went against the advice and distributed all the gifts to empty out his suitcases. In response, recipients felt obligated to return the favor and bought gifts beyond what they can handle financially. As a result, the team spent much effort packing these valuable gifts while spending even more time to show appreciation to the gift giver during their trip which is customary in Taiwan.

## CIM Board of Directors

Rev. Yoman Man  
(Addison) - Chicago  
Rev. Andrew Ho (L.A.)  
Rev. Samuel Law  
(Houston)  
Theresa Poon  
(Cupertino)  
Christine Pi (Bay Area)  
Grace Lin (Bay Area)  
Hayward Man (Chicago)

### CIM Canada

**Executive Director**  
Rev. Isaac Quan

### CIM Australia

**Board of Directors Chair**  
Rev. Sunny Tse

### CIM Brazil

**Committee Chair**  
Rev. Jorge Loo  
**Committee Vice Chair**  
Minister Yeh Dan Liuson  
**CIM Staff**  
Executive Director

### Administrative Assistant

Alice Wong (Part time)  
**Editor**  
Debbie Cheng (Part time)

[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)

[www.cimusa.org](http://www.cimusa.org)

Proverbs 18:13 teaches us, *“To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.”* In cross-cultural missions, listening is one of the greatest signs of respect. David A. Livermore expresses in Cultural Intelligence, *“[Having cultural intelligence] allows for an appreciation of what we have in common with our fellow Christians and other image bearers while placing greater emphasis on the rich, robust things learned by exploring the profound differences.”* As we step foot into a culture, it allows us to observe others while examining our own. Sharing the gospel cross-culturally requires us to jump outside of our cultural lens and share in a way others can understand. God is already at work wherever we go. We are to learn how to join Him in His work with sensitivity.

#### Faith That Moves

Besides cultural challenges, the team faced opportunities that required stepping out in faith. Whether it was offering prayer in a language they didn't speak fluently, sharing a personal story, or leading a group when feeling underprepared, each moment was a stretch.

Several team members described their initial hesitation. “I didn't feel adequate,” one said. “But I had to rely on God in a new way.” When fear met obedience in such instances, God showed up. James 2:17 reminds us: *“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”* On a STM trip, faith can be lived out in many ways; and often, it came alive at the edge of discomfort and insecurity.

#### Eternal Impact

Though the trip lasted just two weeks, the spiritual impact continues. Team members returned with softened hearts, a broader worldview, and a deeper understanding of serving. They continue to process what they saw, learned, and felt—but one thing is clear: STM trip can shape lives far beyond the trip itself. The experience also renewed a sense of connection to the global Church. Despite cultural differences, the team witnessed a beautiful unity in Christ. They sang worship songs in different languages, prayed together across cultures, and saw the Gospel lived out in authentic, local ways. That unity was powerful.

1 Corinthians 3:6–7 captures this perfectly: *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”* The team left Taiwan with a deeper understanding that missions aren't about being the hero—it's about being a part of the work God is already doing.

#### How You Can Be Part of the Mission

There are many ways to take part in what God is doing globally:

- **Pray** for the believers cross-culturally. Many organizations provide prayer items for different countries and people groups. Pray for the endurance and wisdom of believers to share the Good News and open the hearts of the unbelievers.
- **Give** to help send STM teams and provide resources for long-term ministry partners. Is your church sending an STM team? Is there a missionary you can care for?
- **Go**—if God is stirring something in your heart, consider joining a future trip. You don't need to be perfect, just willing. Together, we can answer God's call to love beyond borders, serve with humility, and follow where He leads.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

1. Thank God for leading Pastor Alex and his wife Nicole to meet new gospel friends in Polokwane and establish relationships with them. Pray that the Lord will continue to lead them to lead the local pastoral and gospel work.
2. Thank God for leading the ministry in Pretoria to continue. Through the needs of the brothers and sisters, Pastor Ko and Nicole encourage them to open Sunday evening worship there. Pray that the Lord will attract brothers and sisters to worship the Lord together.
3. Please pray for the student fellowship at Pretoria University as it is difficult for all students to attend. May the Lord continue to protect and guide the development of the ministry, strengthen the hearts of brothers and sisters, and allow gospel friends to know the Lord in fellowship.
4. Please pray for the pastoral care ministry of Pastor You at the Belo Horizonte Church. May God give him more loving kindness and more wisdom. And protect his family in São Paulo.
5. Pray for the spiritual life of the coworkers at Belo Horizonte Church and for a more united and prosperous gospel.
6. Pray that God will prepare a place for the Belo Church to have its own gathering place.
7. Pray for guidance and direction for our next steps for our Roma Ministry. Pray for the planning of sending a STM team to North Macedonia and Serbia scheduled for September 14-October 7. If interested, please contact at [cimcanadaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cimcanadaoffice@gmail.com)
8. Pray for the pastors and teachers that we support in Ghana. Pray for fruitful ministry and God's provision for each pastor's family needs. Pray for the planning of a STM trip to Ghana from October 16-November 2. If interested, please contact at [cimcanadaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cimcanadaoffice@gmail.com).
9. Pray for Janice in Ghana as she continues her ministry as our International Worker in Ghana. Pray for the planning of her home assignment in Canada from June-September.
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

### APR 2025

|                 | <u>Income</u>   | <u>Expense</u>  | <u>Balance</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>General</b>  | \$11,135        | \$5,743         | \$5,392        |
| <b>Missions</b> | \$15,022        | \$14,662        | \$360          |
| <b>Total</b>    | <u>\$26,157</u> | <u>\$20,405</u> | <u>\$5,752</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](http://www.cimusa.org) Click “Give” and follow directions. Thank you!



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)