



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

08.01.2025

Do this work for the Lord

~ Nicole Ko

I have been serving in the mission field for eight years, but the scene at the seminary graduation ceremony when the teachers laid hands on us graduates and prayed seems to have happened just yesterday. Eight years is not a long time for a missionary to serve, but it can give a novice missionary many opportunities to grow and learn. The challenges in each mission field are different, but missionaries have the same mission: leaving their homes to spread the gospel to more people and to see more people believe in Jesus. Missionaries often face challenges such as environmental pressure, cultural differences, loneliness in service, and not seeing results in a short period of time. There are trials and temptations in the challenges. Here are some of my experiences in the challenges:

1. Living Out Christian Testimony is the Most Effective Way to Spread the Gospel

Many missionary ministries revolve around evangelism and the edification of believers. However, we need to know how and when God will use these ministries, activities, or let a faith dialogue cause reflection in people's hearts. When a person believes in the Lord and changes, it is all in God's hands. When we act too hastily, it is easy to evolve into the idea that we are the one in charge of everything. When the ministry and service are effective and praised by people, we will take the credit for ourselves; when there is no result for a period of time, or does not get the expected response, we begin to lose faith, complain, condemn, feel self-pity, and self-righteousness, allowing bitterness to grow in our hearts.

A pastor once explained Matthew 10:14-15, "*And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.... it will be more bearable on the day of judgment ... than for that town.*" and reminded those who reject our Gospel not to think that shaking off the dust means we will judge and determine whether a person is saved, because there is only one judge, God. Today, shaking off the dust means we will judge and determine whether a person is saved, because there is only one judge, God. Today, preachers should look forward to facing penance.

When times are good and the ministry is effective, the spread of the Gospel is what we expect. However, when we face ineffectiveness, challenges, and difficulties, and when we are not accepted by others, it is still a good time to bear witness to the Gospel and spread the Gospel. May the Holy Spirit enlighten and protect our hearts, complain less, be more grateful, ask the Lord for wisdom more, and pray for the salvation of people's souls.

2. Go with the Crowd but Don't Follow the Crowd

Evangelism requires frequent interactions and building relationships with Gospel friends. It is for the sake of the Gospel, hoping for the opportunity to talk about faith or bear witness for the Lord. However, the values behind some behaviors of non-believers or groups (for example, we join basketball teams, football teams, or participate in young family activities) are often different from the Christian faith, such as gossiping in the group, treating right and wrong as personal relationships, building relationships, comparisons, flattery, etc. Missionaries should be cautious when walking into the crowd but not go with the flow, otherwise they will be assimilated as building relationships and losing good testimony while building relationships. In this way, what is preached is only one's own ideas rather than the Gospel, and what is built is only one's own network of relationships rather than the house of God. The understanding or feeling of the Christian faith of the Gospel friends who believe in the Lord is often recognized through the impression and performance the preacher makes. What the preacher says and does is often considered to be the Christian faith. Sometimes it is necessary to build a relationship by helping Gospel friends with difficulties in life so that we can get to know each other better. In the process, we should also help Gospel friends see God's grace. Otherwise, people are very likely to only thank people for their help but do not want to know the God behind them and believe in people but not God.

3. Be Humble and Honor the Lord

Humility is very important for missionaries or other people who serve God. Serving

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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

is not just based on personal experience, talent, and dedication. Although these are important, those of us who are placed by God in churches, missionary organizations, or Christian groups need obedience and humility more. God will use these to build lives and develop ministries.

Rev. John Bevere, the author of “*Living Under the Cover*”, mentioned a very important point in the book: obedience is not because you fully agree, but because you respect the authority established by God and honor the Lord. God’s coverage and protection come through obedience, not through relying on your own efforts to “accomplish God’s work.”

It may seem that serving in a group will be subject to various constraints and restrictions, but do not forget that God’s plan and time will not be changed by people. People serving may sometimes face the problem of “fighting alone” due to various reasons. Limited co-workers and pastors require many services to be “done by yourself”. We must be humble and listen to the suggestions of our church, missionary organization, or group, communicate and pray, and believe that God will

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

1. Thank God for leading various activities during the winter vacation, preparing co-workers and resources for Pastor Alex and Mrs. Nicole Ko, so that young brothers and sisters can be edified and have the opportunity to meet more gospel friends. Pray that the Lord will continue to work in the hearts of these Gospel friends, so that they (children and parents) are willing to enter the church and believe in the gospel.
2. Thank God for protecting the parents of Nicole, so that the neighbor who had previously harassed them could be taken to a mental hospital and receive treatment. May the Lord continue to protect them.
3. The new school term is about to begin. May the Lord grant Pastor Ko wisdom to plan the student ministry (middle school and university) so that he can edify young brothers and sisters and attract gospel friends to join the fellowship.
4. Pray for the young man *Ye Chenxin*, who prayed to receive God last week, hoping that his twin brother and his parents can also go to the Belo Horizonte Church in Brazil and know the Lord.
5. Pray for the church to find a meeting place.
6. And also pray for ministry of Pastor You at the Belo Church.
7. Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine. The invasion continues and innocent lives are being lost every day. Please pray for the House of Mercy, that they will take care of the refugees both materially and spiritually. Pray also for peace talks and a ceasefire. There is a lot of confusion about this process.
8. Pray for the next steps for CIM Canada in their Roma ministry, asking for guidance and direction. Pray for plans to send a short-term missions team to North Macedonia and Serbia between September 14 and October 7. If interested, please contact cimcanadaoffice@gmail.com.
9. Pray for Pastor Isaac and his fellow pastors and teachers in Ghana. Pray for fruitful ministry and for God to provide for the needs of each pastor’s family. Pray for an end to the conflict in *Nkwanta*, where Pastor Gideon is responsible. Tribal conflict has intensified, and Pastor Gideon and his family have now had to relocate to *Kechiebi*.
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

June 2025

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$20,642	\$7,836	\$12,806
Missions	\$26,889	\$23,060	\$3,829
Total	<u>\$47,531</u>	<u>\$30,896</u>	<u>\$16,635</u>

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- 2)] Donate online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org Click “Give” and follow directions. Thank you!



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