

# Chinese International Missions, Inc.

09.01.2025

# Fight the Good Fight Finish the Race

~ Theresa Poon, CIM Board member

Tune in to the news these days and you've undoubtedly seen reports describing these calamities—the three-and-a-half years of the Ukraine-Russian War; the almost two-year Palestine-Israel: conflict; and the ongoing civil war that escalated after the 2021 coup d'état in Myanmar. Add to those, several countries experienced sizable natural catastrophes such as earthquakes in Japan, China, Iran, and Turkey and storms and torrential floods also ravaged many nations, including in the U.S.

We might wonder if we are indeed close to the end of the world. When Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives before His crucifixion, the disciples asked Him in Matthew 24, "<sup>3</sup> Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray.... <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places."

Again, in Matthews 24, it said, "<sup>43</sup> But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only... <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

It's true that only God knows when the end will come but even the apostles had wondered thousands of years ago as well. The book of Revelation clearly paints the picture of what God's final judgment will look like. How should we live our lives today and what should we focus on? When the end comes, nothing will matter as they have no eternal value. Only our faith and trust in Christ can guarantee our eternal lives in Heaven. Who would we see in Heaven? How many of our loved ones and friends can we hope to meet up again there?

It's estimated that there is still 3.4 billion people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus. That's nearly half of the world's population (*Joshua Project*). If the world is ending now, these people will descend into eternal damnation. Are we okay with that? How many of the 50,000 casualties in the Ukraine-Russian War or the 22,000 in the Palestine-Israel Conflict perished without eternal redemption? Jesus commanded the disciples in Matthew 28, "<sup>18</sup> All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Great Commission is not just for pastors or missionaries or those who serve in mission department. It is for every believer. In a 2018 survey by the Barna Group, half of church goers did not know what the Great Commission is. We have a responsibility to impart this important duty to the young ones (in age and in spiritual maturity) what believers should take up and fulfill in this Kingdom ministry.

Not everyone is called by God to participate in mission by leaving their homes and moving thousands of miles away to share the Good News. With so many people of different culture living among us, everyday could be a door that God is opening for us to reach them. I recently had the opportunity of bringing up the hope in Christ in the current unnerving state of mind globally during my Uber rides in Taiwan. Talk about captive audience. It could be someone you meet in your morning walks in the park or the barista who serves you at your coffee place.

In 2 John 7, we are warned that, "For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess Jesus Christ coming in the flesh. This person is the deceiver and the antichrist!" The U.S. Secret Service is responsible for investigating and detecting counterfeit U.S. currency. Their staff are trained to be so familiar with the design of the real bill that they can detect bogus ones right away. They do not need to know how many false designs or who are responsible for producing the faked ones. They only need to be able to detect the false one from the real one. As God's ambassadors, we should be so familiar with God's words in the Bible that we can detect the truth from the lies. Anything that deviate from it is from the anti-Christ. Make no mistake about it, we have to stand firm and steadfast in Christ so as to fight the enemy.

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In "You've Already Won" by the Christian group Shane and Shane, "I know how the story ends. We will be with You again". Let us all strive to fight the good fight and finish the race whenever the end of this world comes.

*NOTE: This article is straightly the writer's opinion and does not reflect CIM's position.* 

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

- 1. Thank God for leading Pastor and Mrs. Ko's Gospel ministry at the University of Pretoria. Two high school students from his church have been accepted to the University and will begin their studies next year. May the Lord use every Christian student to develop a heart for serving in college.
- 2. Pray that the Lord will guide the ministry in Polokwane, allowing Pastor and Mrs. Ko to reach more people and share the Gospel. The local brothers and sisters have recently encountered various disturbances. Pray for the Holy Spirit to protect and strengthen their hearts.
- 3. Again, thank the Lord, Nicole's parents plan to visit them in South Africa in October. Pray that the Lord will guide and protect their health so that they can travel there smoothly.
- 4. Please pray for the official registration procedures for the establishment of the Belo Church in Brazil.
- 5. Praying for the Belo Church youth group. Four young people have prayed for their faith, and the church is preparing to offer them a baptismal class.
- 6. Pray for the church to find a meeting place.
- 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

## July2025

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<b>Balance</b>
General	\$27,274	\$9,307	\$17,967
Missions	\$31,736	\$26,883	\$4,853
Total	\$59,010	\$36,190	\$22,820

To contribute to CIM ministries:

- Make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
- 2) Donate <u>online</u> via credit card, go to: <u>www.cimusa.org</u> Click "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!

