



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

10.01.2026

"As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord."

~ CIM South Africa field, Nicole Ko

In my mission work, I primarily connect with and care for women and children who are Gospel friends. These women have different life roles and stories, and the children come from different family backgrounds. Some of their experiences are similar to mine, but many are completely different. In the process of missionary work, there are inevitably times of frustration and setbacks, but God's guidance and comfort have never ceased. I deeply know that only the Gospel is the true answer to life and the greatest help in one's life.

There was a woman surnamed Chen, Mei, who used to work hard with her husband overseas to support their family, leaving their three young children in China to be cared for by their grandparents. Several years ago, her husband was injured in an accident, and due to the limited medical resources in the area, his treatment was delayed, and he eventually passed away at a young age.

After her husband's death, Mei had no choice but to return to China to live with her in-laws. However, they not only frequently verbally abused her but also spread rumors in the village that she had caused her husband's death. During the two years she lived with them, she was unable to work outside the home and had no income because she needed to take care of the family. Thinking of her three young children, the huge expenses that would be needed for their future lives, and her in-laws' aging, she decided to come to South Africa to stay with her family, hoping to work and earn money to support them.

Yet her in-laws could never understand her decision, believing she intended to remarry, and refused to believe her explanations. Ultimately, Mei reluctantly left China for South Africa. To make matters worse, her in-laws, who remained in China, forbade her children from contacting her. The pain of losing her husband, coupled with her deep longing for her children and her in-laws' long-standing misunderstanding, led her to frequently blame fate, even wishing she could leave this world as well, and her heart was filled with resentment towards her in-laws.

Every time I visited her, I could sense her deep unhappiness. So, I invited her to read the Bible and share our thoughts online every week, and she gladly accepted.

During our first few meetings, Mei recounted her experiences, but each time she became increasingly emotional and unable to control herself. Although I hadn't lived her life, I deeply understood her hardships and felt heartbroken for everything she had endured. I knew that no words could truly comfort her at that moment, nor was it the time to lecture her. In the end, I simply said to her softly, "Let's read the Bible together."

Thank God, during each Bible study, God spoke to her personally through the day's scripture; the Holy Spirit also personally offered comfort, opening her heart step by step with God's word. When she fell into pessimism and despair due to the influence of traditional Chinese folk beliefs, God again guided her through Bible study to understand the true values and hope of the Christian faith. In accompanying Mei, I continuously witnessed the wondrous work of the Holy Spirit and came to realize even more deeply that what humans can do is extremely limited; it is always God Himself who truly changes people's hearts.

There was another woman who had attended Jehovah's Witnesses meetings for a time but remained committed to her Taoist faith. Once, while chatting with her, I asked my husband, Alex, to inquire if she would be willing to take a Christian faith course with me to gain a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. Surprisingly, she readily agreed.

However, as we got to know her better, we discovered that she had a very strong personality and consistently believed that Christianity and Jehovah's Witnesses are the same. Whenever the topic of Christianity came up, she would always say, "I've read the Bible, I know everything." She would refute everyone's opinions one by one, and she was very stubborn. No matter what the topic was, she would always conclude that she was right.

At that moment, I felt a pang of regret and silently prayed to God: "Lord, I really don't have the wisdom to lead a class with someone like her. If I explain to her about her misunderstanding of the Christian faith and her distorted understanding of the truth, it will only lead to arguments; if I don't explain, I worry that she will continue to hold onto her wrong ideas... Lord, if possible, please allow this cup to pass me."

However, God did not respond as I had hoped, and the faith course still began as scheduled.

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Thank God, He led the entire class in a very special way. Because she spoke Cantonese and was not fluent in Mandarin, and I only spoke Mandarin and not Cantonese, the entire class was conducted in Mandarin, which reduced her opportunities to interrupt or argue.

After each class, I would ask her if she had any questions. Thankfully, she mostly shared the emotions and reflections she had gained from the day's lesson, rather than arguing with me. Because it was a one-on-one class, we got to know each other better, and our relationship gradually built up.

Although I don't know when she will be willing to believe in the Lord, I can already see God beginning to work in her heart. Believing that salvation is God's work, we are merely faithful sowing and watering, but only God makes people grow. May God continue to complete His work in her life, and may His will be done.

For a time, I envied missionaries with specialized skills, because they could use their expertise to support missionary work. But I wasn't one of them. However, thank God, on this missionary path, He has consistently allowed me to experience Him, not according to what I lacked, but according to His grace and guidance. I have also deeply realized: "Obeying God allows us to experience His works."

Obedience is an difficult lesson in life; but the constant practice of obedience will surely bring about a transformation in one's life. And such a life outcome is the most powerful testimony for spreading the Gospel.

During our years of missionary work in South Africa, almost no one came to faith the first time they heard the Gospel. Even those who did decide to believe immediately had been a result of God's timing. Most people were observing us, watching how we lived, how we faced challenges, and whether our words and actions differed from the "wisdom" of this world. Lord, help me not only to preach the Gospel with my words, but also to live it out in my life, so that people may see Christ in us and turn to Him.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

1. Thanks be to the Lord for His grace and provision in leading the service, worship, messages and activities of the Mid-Autumn Festival Gospel Sunday at PECCC, allowing brothers and sisters and friends of the gospel to experience God's love and joy together.
2. Thanks be to the Lord, Elder Du Ronghua, who led the discipleship training, to visit and serve in South Africa for over a week, sharing in various small groups and gatherings, bringing spiritual encouragement and blessings. We pray that the Lord will protect Elder Du's health upon his return to Taiwan and ensure his continued ministry.
3. Please pray that the Lord will guide the ministry of Polokwane, especially during the Mid-Autumn Festival, to prepare small mooncakes to give to our friends in the Gospel, so that Pastor Alex Ko and his team can show more care for our friends in the Gospel and spread the love and gospel of Christ.
4. Pray that God will protect sister Claudia, as coworker of the Belo Horizonte Church Youth Fellowship. and her mother, who are traveling in Taiwan.
5. Please pray for *Guoqi Lu* and *Han'en Lin*, two young people who will be attending the baptism class in preparation for baptism at the Belo Church.
6. Continue to pray for wisdom and unity for the CIM Canada board and leadership as we discern priorities and direction.
7. Pray that God would continue to provide the financial and practical resources needed to support the ministry.
8. Please pray earnestly for CIM Canada's executive director, Rev. Isaac Quan. He has been transferred to a transitional long-term facility as he waits for a room to open up more permanently.
9. 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.
10. 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.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Aug 2026

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$34,672	\$10,341	\$24,331
Missions	\$41,646	\$35,839	\$5,807
Total	<u>\$76,318</u>	<u>\$46,180</u>	<u>\$30,138</u>

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