



基督工人中心

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June 2024 Prayer Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Peace to you in the Lord!

When we talk about the busiest season for the Christian Witness Center ministry, it will be winter. First, Winter Conference, back to back with the discipleship training in December, and then the Bible Camp in January. If there's a second busy season, it would be summertime! We have two discipleship training camps in May, Youth Camp in June, Bible Camp and another discipleship training in August. Right after all the camps we will be welcoming the August and September Short-term Mission Teams. As coworkers of the Christian Witness Center, we thank and praise the Lord for the opportunity He has granted us to participate in His work.

Brother Bellman Lin, a servant of the Lord, used to say that "Christians should live their lives serving the Lord as their fulltime job and earthly work as their side job." He set himself as an example when being a lay-minister. There is a difference in between "serving" and "working"! In the book of Genesis, God placed man in the Garden of Eden, where there were trees that were pleasing to the sight (what a pleasant scene) and good for food (tasty), and God made him (Adam/man) cultivate it and keep it (Gen. 2:15), which seemed to be "laboring", but it actually was "serving". Because it was doing the work that God wanted them to do, and God also walked in the garden and was with them. It was only when man sinned and the earth was cursed that "work" become "work hard (New Century Version) in toil (New American Standard) to be able to eat from it all the days of your life" (Gen. 3:17, 19), and the labor of "By the sweat of your face, you will eat bread" has become the work on which we live today.

Pastor Ko's "Ministry Garden" is not far from the coworker dormitory where I live. And his faithful and diligent service to the Lord throughout his life is an example for me to follow. From what I know him, he would like to remain on earth for a few more years and serve the Lord more. Sometimes when I stand in his garden, I would remind myself: Yes! It is God's blessing and the very much better ending of life when we finish the toil of the world, from our earthly labors and into the rest of the Lord. But it is also the grace of God that we remain on the flesh to serve Him! Therefore, brothers and sisters, even though we have to go to school, go to work, do housework, and take care of our children, we should not stop our service in God's house (church), and serve God's children (brothers and sisters) because this is truly our main job.

This year's prayer letter messages have been focusing on the theme of "Turn to God for Revival". This topic needs to be approached and understood from different angles. When you receive this newsletter, registration for the Youth Camp is still open. And here we invited the coworker in charge of the Youth Camp and a board member Brother Liang Chen to share "Raising Up Godly Generations". It reminds all of the parents how to glorify God at home and

follow the teachings of the Bible to lead the family to turn to God and wait upon His work of revival.

Raising Up Godly Generations

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes that parents should diligently teach their children and raise godly offspring. The end of the Old Testament also shows us that God places great importance on the revival of the family. He wants to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers (Malachi 4:6). Likewise, the revival of the church today is rooted in the revival of the family, that is, turning the hearts of both parents and children toward God.

Our Lord, when He became flesh, did not descend as an adult but started as a baby; He did not live as a solitary figure but grew up in a normal yet devout family. Although He is God's only begotten Son, He was born under the law (Galatians 4:4). He grew up gradually just like us and was tempted in every way, yet was without sin (Hebrews 4:15). God chose Joseph and Mary to be Jesus' earthly parents entirely by His grace. However, by reflecting on the family of Jesus, we can learn how to raise our children and await revival (mainly referenced from Luke chapter 2):

1. **Leading by example and teaching by word.** Luke chapter 2 mentions several times that Joseph and Mary acted according to God's law or customs (Luke 2:22, 24, 27, 39, 42), indicating their respect for God's word. As devout Jews, Joseph and Mary were diligent in teaching God's words and deeds to their children, known as "teaching by word." Moreover, they were willing obey and observe God's law, known as "leading by example." The Gospel of Matthew also repeatedly records Joseph's immediate obedience to God's commands. This attitude of obedience to God set a good example for their children. In this passage, we also see Jesus' obedience to His earthly parents, even when they did not understand His words (Luke 2:50-51). Although Jesus never sinned and never disobeyed, He still learned obedience through what He suffered (Hebrews 5:8). The apostle Paul also repeatedly emphasized the obedience of children to their parents (Ephesians 6:1-2, Colossians 3:20). However, teaching children to obey is not easy, especially in the 21st century. To help children learn obedience, parents must lead by example and teach by word: setting an example of obedience to God, combining positive instruction and reinforcement, and disciplining when necessary.
2. **Willingly paying the price.** Joseph and Mary were devout Jews who traveled to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the festivals. Nazareth is about 90 miles from Jerusalem, a journey of at least three to four days on foot. Celebrating one Passover required them to spend at least two weeks: one week on the road and one week in Jerusalem. Their family was not wealthy, and not working for two weeks would cause financial loss, not to mention the expenses of food and lodging in Jerusalem. This shows that their pursuit of the Lord came at a cost. Brothers and sisters who attend the Christian Witness Center (CWC) camps also need to pay a price to equip themselves. Most CWC camps last a week, so brothers and sisters need to take leave from work and drive for many hours or even fly to attend. Their willingness to pay the price to pursue the Lord will also have a positive impact on the next generation.
3. **Seeking the Lord together.** Luke chapter 2 shows Joseph and Mary appearing together in almost every instance (such as "Joseph and Mary," "His parents," "they," etc.), indicating their unity: they took the child to the temple together, went to Jerusalem for the festival together, and searched for the young Jesus together. Nowadays, many couples

cannot pursue the Lord together: often one is enthusiastic while the other is indifferent. One or both parents often miss out on raising their children. On the path of pursuing the Lord, husbands and wives should submit to each other and be united: worshiping God together, serving God together, growing together, and raising a godly next generation together.

4. **Pursuing the Lord with their children.** In addition to going to the synagogue (Luke 4:16), Joseph and Mary took their children to Jerusalem for the festival every year, which added extra burden to an already difficult journey. They not only pursued the Lord devoutly themselves but also brought their children along, allowing them to learn the right way from a young age. When Jesus was in Jerusalem, He did not go off to play; instead, He stayed in the temple, listening and learning God's Word. CWC encourages brothers and sisters with children to bring them to the camps and enjoy family accommodations. During the camps, children grow up spiritually with their parents, and they can also make good spiritual friends. Over the past ten years, I have seen many brothers and sisters bring their children to the center, even those with very young babies. However, some brothers and sisters, after having children, feel it is too tiring and inconvenient to bring them along and stop coming to any CWC camps, or even stop attending church gatherings. Some parents miss meetings or services due to their children's schedules or interests (such as birthday parties, sports games, piano recitals, etc.). We need to reflect and repent under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, willing to pay the price to pursue the Lord and serve Him with our children.
5. **Committing themselves to the Lord.** Joseph and Mary dedicated the baby Jesus to the Lord (Luke 2:22), but before that, they had already committed themselves to the Lord (Luke 1:38, 1:46-48). Similarly, Samuel's mother, Hannah, also committed herself to God, praying and weeping before Him, before dedicating baby Samuel to Him. When we had our third child, we named him Levi, intending to dedicate him to the Lord. But later, in prayer, God reminded us: "You dedicate your child to the Lord, but what about yourselves?" Indeed, we must first commit ourselves to the Lord, striving to live a holy life, before we can dedicate our children to Him.
6. **Focusing on the Holistic Growth of Children.** Luke chapter 2 mentions Jesus' growth twice (Luke 2:40, 52), including four aspects: physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual. Pastor John MacArthur, in his book "The Fulfilled Family: God's Design for Your Home," believes that wise parents should focus on their children's needs in these four aspects during their growth, maintaining a good balance. Physically, children need proper nutrition and exercise, and it is good for parents and children to engage in physical activities together. Intellectually, children need to acquire knowledge from books, work skills, and life skills, and more importantly, parents need to teach them the principles of wisdom, namely the fear of the Lord. Socially, children need to learn to develop good interpersonal relationships and communication skills; but in all relationships, the most important is the obedience and respect of parents. Spiritually, children need to learn the complete truth of salvation, to know God, love God, obey parents, and build good spiritual characters. Although children can partially meet some of these needs through other channels (such as school, church, internet, friends, etc.), parents' teaching and influence in each aspect are crucial and cannot be entirely "outsourced." Parents should regularly pray for their children, hoping that they will experience holistic growth in all the four key areas above.

Of course, Joseph and Mary were not perfect, and their approach to raising children was not flawless. Similarly, the six points summarized above are not exhaustive. However, their testimony offers us valuable insights into how to raise children according to God's will, guiding

both our hearts and our children's hearts towards God and awaiting the revival of our families.

Over the past several decades, CWC has placed great emphasis on raising a godly next generation through discipleship training. Each CWC camp has excellent teachers to teach the children, and every winter conference includes family topics for parents. Additionally, there are two camps specifically for youth each year: one during the winter conference and the other one in June. This year's Youth Discipleship Camp will be held from June 9 to 15, with the theme "The View from Above." It aims to help youth see their identity and life from God's perspective, guiding them to view major life decisions, everyday moments, and everything in between through the lens of eternity. Admittedly, a week-long camp cannot replace the daily role of parents in raising their children. However, this camp hopes to facilitate growth in Christ through prayer, scripture memorization, devotions, sermons, worship, group sharing and discussions, mission activities, outdoor activities, and talent shows. It aims to provide youth with the experience of spiritual growth alongside fellow believers, and to encourage them to better understand how to cooperate with their church and fellowship in their pursuit of knowing the Lord and obeying their parents.

Future Meetings:

(1) June Youth Camp (6/9-15)

The youth camp will be held from June 9 to 15. This year, we have a number of speakers, including Brother Edwin and Sister Elanor Lin and Pastor Berry Edwards, on the theme of "Visions from Above" (Col. 3:1-3), encouraging young people that life may be full of challenges and difficulties, but if we have a vision from heaven, it can renew and change our life decisions. On Wednesday afternoon, we will arrange for young people to go to "nearby" (some may be an hour away) nursing homes to go on missions, and on Thursday afternoon there will be rafting, water activities. This year, we will still make T-shirt that young people like, [the registration form has been posted on CWC website](#). Parents, please encourage your teenage children to sign up as early as possible, so that we can make proper preparations. Deadline: June 3. To make it easier for you to pay camp fees, this year you can register electronically and pay online with Zelle.

(2) August Bible Camp (7/28-8/3)

This time we are going to study "the Life of Christ – The Four Gospels". If you are interested in participating the camp, the syllabus and the application form have already been posted on the website for you to download. The strict deadline for registration is June 15. Starting June 1st, you will start writing presentation report, so please register as early as possible. [Click here for detailed information](#). In addition to Pastor Daniel Shen, Sister Grace Lee will come in-person to teach in the meeting since her last visit in January 2020. Please do not miss this opportunity.

New Online Donation:

In the past few years, brothers and sisters have asked whether they can make donation online. However, because the Christian Witness Center is located in a rural area, the local bank we have is small and do not have the advanced fund transfer systems. In April of this year, we went to a larger bank in Kansas City (Missouri) and opened an account that allows using Zelle to make donations. Now we could save brothers and sisters the trouble of writing checks and mailing them. For how to do this, [please click here](#). At the same time, brothers and sisters can also scan the QR code with their mobile phone to donate when attending different meetings. This is a new way of giving. Thanks to the Lord. During the application process, we have witnessed God open the way for us step by step.

August and September Short-term Mission

Praise the Lord! In the past few years (even in 2020 and 2021 when the pandemic was severe), churches from both East and West coast, and even churches from Texas, have participated in the short-term mission to the Midwest student ministry. We thank the Lord for them that they came to preach the gospel at their own expense and in their 10 precious vacation days. This year we have two tiers: one from August 16 to 25 and one from September 6 to 15. So far, five churches have contacted us for August, and four churches in September (could be arranged into 5 teams). They have started the preparation and training their team members. We urge the churches and Bible study groups in the Midwest, please grab the opportunity at the beginning of the new school year to team up with the short-term mission teams to evangelize not only the new students on campus, but also the old students who we have missed to reach for Christ. If your church or Bible study group are interested, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Past Meeting Reports:

May Discipleship Training (5/19-24) and Memorial Weekend Lay-Minister Training (5/24-27)

Praise the Lord for leading the past two meetings. Though not many people participated in the Discipleship Training: about 30 adults plus their 4 kids, but through the exquisite sharing from God's servants Pastor David Su and Pastor Xiao Yuan, a study of series in "Psalms" and "the Discipleship Training", "Nehemiah", "Philippians", and the evening revival topics "Are You Still Following?", "The Grain of Wheat that Fell into the Earth", etc. brothers and sisters have been abundantly well-trained.

But in the following Lay-minister Training, near almost 100 adults with their 40 plus children attended this training. And the classrooms, dining room, and children's classrooms were crammed. and we thanked the Lord for this group of working people taking this long weekend to pursue the Lord, and we pray that God will use them, as Pastor Ko used to say, to be the backbone and stable force of the church and campus Bible study class. In addition to Pastor David Su and Pastor XiaoYuan, Elder Johnson Lee who used to be a lay-minister also came to share. All the messages whether "Book of Habakkuk", "Book of Ephesians", "Daniel and His Three Friends", "Lay-ministry: Making Good Use of Your Resources" during the day, or "Psalm of Life" in the evening, with workshop topics: "Educating Soul, Nurturing Heart, and Nurturing Faith - Helping Students to Grow". "Self-Identification and Serving as a Family ", and "God's Guidance, God's Discipline", ", etc. have touched our hearts. We pray that brothers and sisters would not just listen to the sermon (enjoyed the hearing of messages, filled the mind with spiritual knowledge, went back to point fingers in the church), but rather practically living it out with a humble heart.

Sunday Online Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

During the pandemic, many churches' meetings were held online, that was why Pastor Ko started this Sunday evening Bible study and prayer meeting to lead brothers and sisters continue to have a life of Bible reading, prayer, and spiritual sharing. After the August Bible Camp, CWC coworkers have decided to utilize this platform, not only to help brothers and sisters to prepare for the next Bible Camp (we will teach how to study the Bible, how to do the outlines, and how to write the assigned topic reports), but also spend some time to pray for the need of CWC ministry. We will shorten the meeting to one hour (7:00-8:00PM CT) so that it will not affect your next day schedule. We will study "Life of the Christ – The Four Gospels". Zoom ID is: 85888709271, passcode: 567482. Please come and study the Bible together that we will

be equipped in the Lord.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

1. Please pray for us to find a venue for this year's Winter Conference that the Lord will not only open the way for us, but also give us a clear idea of where God is leading us.
2. Please continue to pray for the preparation for the preparation of the June Youth Camp, and the August Bible Camp. Pray for brothers and sisters to prepare their hearts for the meetings.
3. Pray for the mid-term missionary: Thank the Lord for touching the heart of Brother Simon Cheng of California Christian Assembly in Sunnyvale, and in responding to the Lord's great grace upon him, Brother Cheng has committed to come to the Midwest for four months (April 15 to August 10). In addition to supporting the CWC's May Discipleship Training, Lay-minister Training, June Youth Camp, August Bible Camp, and August Discipleship Training, we will assign him to station in Manhattan, KS for a month and a half, while helping nearby campuses and churches (Lawrence, Hays, Wichita); and in Columbia, MO for two and a half months, and helping nearby campuses (Kirksville, Hannibal MO) Please remember Brother Simon Cheng and his ministry in the Midwest in your prayers that he will be a blessing to many.
4. For Coworkers:
 - Mrs. Ko: Please continue to pray for the health of my grandson Levi, who is currently seeking second opinion about installing a feeding tube on GI doctor's recommendation. May God solve his underweight problem. Rheumatism and sciatic nerve pain have greatly affected my movement and ministry. Please pray for the Lord's healing, that I can be back to normal in the near future.
 - Sister Cindy Chiang: For the many summer camps, please pray that the Lord will not only bless every meeting, but also give me enough physical and spiritual strength, wisdom and knowledge, especially for the planning and preparation of various meetings, the arrangement of short-term mission teams in August and September, the weekend's Word ministry on campus, and the CWC administrative work on weekdays.
 - Brother Qinglong Liang: Pray that God watch over the serving in the Youth Camp and preparation of messages for Bible Camp; Pray that God will give me a desire to understand and do God's will; a humble heart to lead more brothers and sisters to know the Lord; and beginning in June, a good working relationship with our mid-term missionary that we may serve the church and fellowship group in Columbia and the surrounding areas in one heart Please also pray for my wife when she home schools the children and serve in the children's ministry in the church; also pray for the green card application process.
 - Pastor Charles Huang: Please pray for the church outreach in the new semester; and pray that the Lord will give the church and coworkers spiritual insight to build more effective relationships with non-believers and bear witness to the Lord. Please pray that Pastor Huang receives words of God and spiritual gift to shepherd the Champagne Chinese Church. Please pray that the Lord will prepare a suitable school for the two young children next school year.
 - American coworker Scott Jerome: Praise the Lord, my baby granddaughter is doing well, but mom Chiara, my daughter, had a blood clot a couple weeks ago. Doctor gave her medicine to make sure it does not get bigger and waiting for it to go away on its own. Please also pray for the health of Scott's parents who have dementia.
5. Pray for the CWC monthly financial need (General fund, Building fund, Training fund, etc.) asking the Lord to manifest His abundant provision and allow more brothers and sisters to experience the blessings of giving.7.

6. For CWC: Pray that the Lord will bring more co-workers to the CWC ministry for the furtherance of the gospel ministry in the Midwest.

Emmanuel
In the Lord,
Sister Cindy Chiang