



基督工人中心

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September 2024 Prayer Letter

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

As I am writing this letter, the August and September short-term missions have just ended, which means that I will start focusing on preparing for the three winter meetings: the Winter Conference (December 21-25), the December Discipleship Training (December 25-29), and the January Bible Camp (December 29-January 4).

I have often thought that if winter were the busiest season in CWC ministry, then summer would be the next, because we first have August Bible Camp, followed by the August Discipleship Training, and five days after the training camp we have the August 10-day short-term mission trip, then another 10-day short-term mission trip in September. Thanks be to the Lord that in recent years, more churches have been participating in the short-term mission to the Midwest. 7 churches sent 49 brothers and sisters for the August short-term mission, and 39 from 4 churches in September. Together with our own three CWC coworkers, we had a big group of 91 brothers and sisters for these two short-term mission trips.

Usually, all the short-term mission team members will gather at the Center on Monday to help with the maintenance work. And in the evening each team will share their mission ministry from the previous weekend. And followed by sharing where they will be going in the next seven days, and then we will pray together. On Tuesday morning, all the teams will hit the road separately. I remember that at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 20, when the seven teams of about 10 vehicles left the Center and were on their way to the mission field. The Chinese saying of "ten thousands arrows shot at once" came to my mind. And also as described in Zachariah 6:1-8 "four chariots were coming forth from the Lord of all the earth, and sent messages of comfort everywhere". Truly! The eleven teams have traveled as far north as Grand Forks (ND), south to Shreveport (LA), west to Lubbock (TX) and east to Huntsville (AL). Everywhere they went, "there was much rejoicing in that city" (Acts 8:8)! This year we have seen that people's hearts are softer and ready to receive the gospel. After the September mission trips, one leader from a short-term mission teams told me that their team had led nearly 40 gospel friends to Jesus! As God has promised us, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15), "Their labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Praise the Lord!

The theme of this year's prayer letter messages is "Turning to God and waiting for Revival". Although the pandemic of the past two years has had some impact on the church and individuals, it is time to put it behind us and let us run towards the goal. This issue Brother Qinglong Liang, CWC coworker will share the message as below:

It Is Reasonable for the Children of God to Preach Jesus as the Christ Everywhere

Acts 6 recorded that the apostles had selected seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit, and of wisdom in charge of the tables, so that they could devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. Some brothers and sisters have shared with me by quoting this passage that preachers should devote themselves to prayer and preaching. I did not take it seriously when I heard it at the time, for I naturally thought that I have been doing so already. It was not until a few years later, through something that had happened, that I realized what my problem was: I had overlooked what the apostles mentioned

“devote” themselves to prayer, and that my understanding of prayer and preaching was quite superficial.

Although this passage may seem like specifically for preachers, yet as children of God, even if we are not full-time ministers, God is more than willing to call us to follow Him, serve Him, and proclaim Him. Every year in August and September, there are short-term mission teams from different places come to the Midwest for that purpose. We hope that we can prepare ourselves to serve with the mission teams and also prepare ourselves to prosper the gospel and make disciples according to God's will every day in the following three aspects,

First, we need to have the right attitude of serving. The apostles mentioned that they should devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. “Devote themselves” means they should not be distracted, their hearts and minds should not deviate, they should not be intermittent, and all the arrangements in life should revolve around prayer and preaching no matter under any circumstances. When we are willing to try to “devote ourselves”, God will show us that we do not have such a devoted heart to Him, let alone such strength to devote to Him, then He will give us a heart of repentance, so that we can confess how prideful we have been and that we have not exalt Him. At the same time, the Holy Spirit will lead us to trust in the redemptive work that Jesus Christ has accomplished.

Second, pray in the Holy Spirit. As mentioned above, when we really want to “devote ourselves”, the Lord will show us our sins, and then make known to us the importance of prayer and will stir up our heart to pray. But how do we pray? Paul shares in Romans that “we do not know how to pray as we should, the Spirit Himself intercedes for {us} with groanings too deep for words”, we then realized that we truly do not know how to pray, only the Holy Spirit can pray for us, and only He can teach us how to pray. Therefore, in order to pray according to God's will, we must first become a person who is completely obedient to the Holy Spirit and is submissive to the Holy Spirit, that is, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and this is one of the important conditions for the apostles to choose those who serve tables. God is Spirit, and when we pray we are deepening our relationship in the spirit with the Father. Therefore, we ought to ask God for a heart that is willing to be submissive to the Holy Spirit; a heart that is truly willing to pray to God; and the ability to intercede for the gospel friends around us that God will give them a heart willing to turn to God. When we pray to God in our spirit, God will surely work in our hearts and in the hearts of the gospel friends to turn their hearts to the Lord.

Third, preach that Jesus is the Christ. Each of us may have our own understanding of preaching, but what exactly did the apostles mean when they spoke of the ministry? In Acts 5, when the apostles were flogged by the high priest and the Sanhedrin for teaching the people in Jesus' name, and after they were released, every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus {as} the Christ. Thus, the one and only message the apostles preached was to teach people that Jesus is the Christ, the one God sent to save sinners.

The Lord Jesus himself said that it is the scripture that testify about HIM, so that people will receive God's life, which is eternal life, by repenting and following Jesus through the Bible. So, the Word of God is about Jesus Christ Himself, and the theme of all our messages must revolve around Jesus being the Christ. How can we better proclaim that Jesus is the Christ? We must obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit and truly know Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible.

Throughout history, God has personally raised up the work of revival, and He continues to wait today for His children to be completely obedient to the Holy Spirit that their life may be restored. When we are willing to rely on the Lord to devote ourselves to prayer and preaching in our respective fields, the work of God's revival will come, first in us and then in all we come into contact with.

Future Meetings

(1) Winter Conference (12/21 evening to 12/25 noon)

This year Winter Conference will be held at the Embassy Suite Hotel in Rogers, Arkansas, please reserve your schedule early and invite brothers and sisters and your gospel friends of the church to attend the meeting. God has prepared many new speakers for us: Pastor Mingpeng Gong of Canada, whose burden and gift is to evangelize gospel friends from mainland China; Pastor Larry Wong of SAGOS Institute of Preaching & Bible Exposition will share the Bible exposition messages. Another feature of this year is that we have specially invited Teacher Joshua Peng, who led our Holy Land Study Group last year and has been in Israel for decades, to speak about the Holy Land and the Bible; Pastor David Lu will still preaches his specialty: the message of eschatological prophecy; In addition, Pastor Andy and Hilary Tso from the Brooklyn Pastoral Church in New York, who emphasize parent-children relationships and home school, will talk about family. Elder Daniel Luan of the Rutgers Community Christian Church in New Jersey will also come and share messages. The speakers in the English group are Pastor Paul Sin and others, so please do not miss out this opportunity. Detailed information will be

posted on the CWC website, monthly newsletter and prayer letters in the coming months.

(2) December Discipleship Training (12/25 evening to 12/29 noon)

As soon as the Winter Conference is over, December Discipleship Camp will be held at the center that evening. Due to the schedule of the Winter Conference and January Bible Camp, we have compressed the December Discipleship Training to four days, however, it still requires full-time attendance. Thank the Lord that Pastor Mingpeng Gong and Techer Joshua Peng will come to teach. Detailed information will be posted on [CWC website](#) soon. Please not only reserve time for yourself, but also invite other brothers and sisters of your church to participate in the training.

(3) January Bible Camp (12/29 to 1/4/2025)

This time we will study “the Book of Acts and Life of Paul”. Praise the Lord, many brothers and sisters has tasted the sweetness of God’s Word studying the Life of Jesus-The Four Gospel in August Bible Camp and committed to continue the study of Book of Acts, currently about 50 brothers and sisters have already signed up for the January camp. Pastor David Su and Sister Grace Lee will come to teach. Assignments on how to read the Book of Acts and mapping Paul’s four missionary journeys will be given to the applicants according to the syllabus. The deadline for registration is 11/15, the application form and schedule have been posted on the CWC website, [please click here](#) to start preparing early.

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. Now we finally opened an account that allows using Zelle to make donations in a larger bank in Kansas City (Missouri) so that we could save brothers and sisters the trouble of writing checks and mailing them. For how to do this, [please click here](#). In the past three months, not only we have seen brothers and sisters donating with QR codes from their cell phones when they came to the meetings, but also using Zelle transfer from their homes. Please make good use of this channel of contribution if your heart is burdened to support the CWC financially.

“Paul’s Missionary Journey Holy Land Tour” Willingness Survey

Based on CWC’s schedule for Holy Land Study Tour which is held once in every three years, we should have the “Paul’s Missionary Journey” Holy Land Study Tour in 2025 or 2026. The reason we could schedule a tour for 2025 is as follow: The originally scheduled 2022 "Out of Egypt into Canaan, Follow Jesus’ Footprints” study tour was postponed to 2023 due to Pastor Ko went to be with the Lord and we were also in still the midst of Covid pandemic at that time. Thus, we can resume the “Paul’s Missionary Journey” Holy Land Study Tour in 2025 as scheduled, since now that the situation in Israel is unstable. In addition, some brothers and sisters in the August’s Bible Camp have been asking about it. 2025 would be a good timing to do the “Paul’s Missionary Journey” (to Turkey, Greece, or even to Rome), and it will still be scheduled for mid-June if we go. We are now doing a survey, if you will consider or are thinking of participating in 2025, please send us an email (cwc@cwcn.org) and let us know.

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 as a group. To help the participants into deeper study of the Bible, we will teach how to study the Bible, how to do the outlines, and how to write a topic reports, etc. We will be studying “The Book of Acts and Life of Paul” to prepare brothers and sisters for January Bible camp, we will 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 “the Book of Acts and Life of Paul”. 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. After half a year of prayer and searching for a venue, with your prayers, God has provided a venue for this year's Winter Conference, the Embassy Suites in Rogers, Arkansas. Please mark your calendar and reserve time (December 21-25) to attend. This is a new change. Please continue to pray for the adaptations we have to the new venue, and for a good working relationship with the hotel.
2. Thank the Lord for leading the August and September short-term mission teams. Not only all team members were

physically, mentally and spiritually healthy, had a safe journey along the way, but also have borne many fruits in different places. Please continue to pray for the follow-up work to the new believers in every church.

3. For Coworkers:

* Mrs. Ko: Thank the Lord that the basement waterproof work was finally completed at the end of August. And I have returned to California in early September to continue my sciatica treatment. I will think about how to deal with the basement remodel later when my leg problem gets fixed. May the Lord continue to give me wisdom so that I can find a suitable and honest contractor to do the work. I am greatly thankful to the Lord for providing me with great and substantial help and love through the brothers and sisters of the Columbia Chinese Christian Church when I was most helpless.

* Sister Cindy Chiang : Starting this month, I will concentrate on preparing for the three winter meetings. Please pray that the Lord grants me wisdom and knowledge from above in making all arrangement. Please also pray for me for the administrative work during the weekdays and for weekend's ministry on campus and churches that I can be a blessing to all.

* Brother Qinglong Liang: Pray for wisdom in preparing for the three winter meetings and serving in other CWC ministries. Pray that the Lord will give me a heart that desires and understands the truth and shares the truth. Strive to work together with our brothers and sisters in Columbia Chinese Christian Church according to God's heart; Willing to take the initiative to take on more responsibilities in my family; continue to pray for the green card application.

* Pastor Charles Huang: Please pray for the new believers' follow-up work after the short-term mission. May the Lord protect the spiritual growth of those brothers and sisters who have accepted Jesus as their Savior. Please pray for the preparations for the joint Chinese New Year Evangelistic Gala in Champaign next year, and may God give all the Chinese churches in Champaign a unified acts and inspire each other to share the gospel. Pray that I will have the gift and Word of God to feed churches in Champaign and the surrounding areas. Pray that the Lord will bless my three children in their studies and growth in school.

* American coworker Scott Jerome: Please continue pray for Scott's dad who will be undergoing lung cancer surgery soon. Pray for the health of both Scott's elderly parents.

4. 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.

5. 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