



基督工人中心
CHRISTIAN WITNESS CENTER

June, July 2025 Prayer Letter

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

“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” (John 9:25)

After a busy May of Discipleship Training and Lay-minister Training, followed by the June Youth Camp, we are now in the midst of intense preparations for the August Bible Camp and August Discipleship Training. In addition, we are also preparing to receive two waves of short-term mission teams arriving in August and September. The highlight of these short-term mission teams in various locations is: through gospel meetings and personal evangelism, they preach Jesus Christ and lead people to accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

When I co-labor with the mission teams, what I enjoy most is listening to them share their testimonies of salvation—because these are their real, personal experiences. It's just like the blind man in John 9. After his eyes were opened, the Pharisees interrogated him with theological arguments. They insisted that Jesus couldn't be from God, couldn't be the Christ, and declared that Jesus was a sinner because He broke the Sabbath by doing work. But the blind man said, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” When we share the gospel, we may not be able to convince people with eloquent speech, deep philosophy, or complex science. But no one can deny the work God has done in our lives! Two testimonies in particular left a deep impression on me.

At one evangelistic meeting led by a short-term mission team, a brother shared his experience of coming to faith. He said it was about 30 years ago when he had just come to the U.S. His English was not very good. One day while walking on the street, a man (who he later learned was a U.S. Army recruiter) approached him. Seeing that he was strong and well-built, the recruiter asked if he wanted to join the Army. Becoming a soldier had been a childhood dream, so without hesitation, he enlisted and was sent to boot camp for training. After reporting for duty, he later realized the real trial was just beginning. During marching drills, for example, when the commander shouted “Right face!”, he didn't understand and turned left—he was the only one in the entire group to do so, causing a burst of laughter. There were many other difficult experiences, and though he was in deep emotional distress, he couldn't quit because he had signed a contract. During training, recruits were not allowed to leave the base freely. The only

exception was that the army permitted them to attend church services on Sundays, so he chose to go to a local American church as an opportunity to get out. Man's end is God's beginning. When he first encountered the gospel and heard about Jesus, he couldn't stop crying. Through the pastor's patient guidance, he eventually accepted Christ. During his time in the army, he faithfully attended church every Sunday and grew spiritually. Three years passed quickly. On graduation day, when his name was called for an award, he could hardly believe his ears—not only had he ranked among the top of his class, but he had also been promoted. After leaving the military, he completed a program in traditional Chinese medicine in California, built a family, and became part of a church. He never forgot that when he was most helpless, someone shared the gospel with him, and it changed his life.

Another testimony also involved someone who came to faith during boot camp (a clear sign of how difficult boot camp can be!). He's an American brother and a friend of Pastor Ko, a seminary graduate who frequently helped us in the early days of our ministry. One day I asked him, "How did you come to believe in Jesus?" He told me that he grew up in rural Colorado. After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Army and was assigned to California for training. One Sunday afternoon, he was wandering around a park outside the base (Sunday outings clearly being a precious opportunity for new recruits!). A man approached him and said, "Hey young man! I'll buy you a hamburger if you come to church with me tonight." For the sake of a hamburger, he went to the church (I laughed and said, "You're really a foodie!"). He later came to faith in Jesus. He told me that after that day, he never saw that man again! (I laughed again and said, "Wow! Maybe you met an angel that day!") After he left the military, he entered seminary and eventually became a missionary.

I believe each of us has a wonderful story, but it takes someone to bring the gospel to us! I often ask brothers and sisters how they came to believe. Aside from a small number who come from Christian families, many came to faith through Gospel Camp, Summer Retreat, Winter Conference, or short-term mission teams! After Jesus preached the gospel to the Samaritan woman who came to draw water at noon, He told His disciples: "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.'" (John 4:35-37)

This year, after President Trump took office, there have been many dramatic changes around the world. For us Chinese living in the United States, what we feel most keenly is the increased restrictions on visas to the U.S. From a human perspective, not only are university budgets shrinking, but new visa applicants must now schedule interviews and have their social connections checked, and it's expected that the number of new students coming this year may significantly decrease. But what puzzles me is this: despite these limitations, the numbers of short-term mission teams coming in August and September this year has not decreased! In

August, three “large” teams will come, and in September, eight “large” teams will come to the Midwest for missions. (Because CWC requires each team to have at least six people, some churches that couldn’t form their own teams have joined together with others. I estimate over ten churches will participate.) When I shared my confusion with coworkers, one of them had a great response. He said, “Those who are able to come to the U.S. this year probably have even more tender hearts—this is a great opportunity to share the gospel.” Indeed! Paul said: “Preach the word; be ready in season {and} out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

In response to this significant era, the theme of our monthly prayer letter messages this year is: “Proclaim the Gospel Widely and Make Disciples.” This issue features a message shared by Pastor Charles Huang, our coworker.

The Great Commission for You and Me

(Pastor Huang)

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus gave the Great Commission by saying “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matt. 28:18-20).

There are four verbs in the Great Commission, and each should be carefully understood. Among them, the only main verb is “make disciples”; the other three are verbal participles: “go,” “baptizing,” and “teaching.” The main verb is, of course, the primary command, while the participles function as verbal adjectives that describe the main verb. These three participles describe how to carry out the main verb. So, “make disciples” is done through “go”, “baptizing”, and “teaching”. And as disciples carry out the Great Commission, Jesus promises to be with them always, until He comes again. His presence means He will provide everything needed for the work of making disciples. Since God is with His disciples until the end of the age, this command is not only for the disciples at Jesus’ time, but also for disciples throughout all generations—including you and me—until Christ returns.

The meaning of “GO”

Jesus wants us to “go”: on a personal level, this means stepping out of our comfort zones, sharing our testimonies, and speaking about spiritual matters and the Kingdom of God. The people we reach out to might be our close friends, classmates, coworkers, or even our bosses. It could mean going to nearby campuses, visiting friends, caring for loved ones, or even joining short-term mission trips to enter the harvest field of the gospel. On a church level, it can mean reaching into our local communities—serving them, bearing witness for the Lord, and caring for those in need. It also includes sending workers into the mission field—whether short-term, mid-term, or long-term.

The meaning of “Baptizing”

In order to baptize others, we must first preach the gospel and lead people to believe in the Lord—only then will they be willing to be baptized. When was the last time we shared the gospel with someone? What are the reasons we hesitate to evangelize? Perhaps it's the fear of rejection or feeling ashamed of the gospel. But if we love God and care about the souls of others, we ought to overcome every difficulty and faithfully sow the seeds—some will surely fall on good soil.

We are called to faithfully proclaim the gospel and entrust the results to God. We also need to be prepared. As the apostle Peter said: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15). We should be ready to share our personal testimony of salvation so that when the opportunity arises, we can effectively share the gospel. Evangelism is not limited to words. Even more persuasive is a life that reflects the gospel. While verbal sharing communicates the message clearly and directly, a life lived in alignment with the gospel powerfully demonstrates the truth and transforming power of the gospel.

The meaning of "Teaching"

Baptism is like a school entrance ceremony—it marks the beginning of learning to be a disciple of the Lord and becoming more like Jesus. Teaching God's Word is essential, but the goal of teaching is for the learner to "**obey**". As James 1:22 says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

It is a great blessing for a church to offer sound teaching, but if that teaching is not lived out, it brings little benefit to the church. In fact, too much knowledge without life transformation can lead to pride (see 1 Corinthians 8:1). To have a life transformed to be like Jesus, God's Word is necessary. But having God's Word alone does not guarantee transformation. Jesus not only spoke the truth—He also lived it out as an example. We likewise need both the teaching of God's Word and the application of it in our daily lives.

"The Essence of Being a Disciple of the Lord"

The basic definition of a disciple of the Lord is someone who learns to be like Jesus. We are all in the process of discipleship—learning to speak His words, do His works, love what He loves, and hate what He hates. Being a disciple of the Lord means fully identifying with Christ and becoming like Him. As He is, so are we in this world.

In this age of rampant worldliness, will we choose to satisfy our own desires, or will we deny ourselves? Will we choose a life of selfish comfort, or a life of carrying our cross? People naturally desire an easy life, but Jesus calls His disciples to deny themselves and take up their cross daily.

It is easy to compromise with the world, but Jesus commands His disciples to be His witnesses. This is a difficult task, yet it is the greatest mission for Christians on earth. We are not alone—for Jesus has promised to be with us, and He will provide all that is needed to accomplish His Great Commission.

"Making Disciples Starts from You"

The Great Commission is about making disciples. While we understand the importance of

making disciples, the question remains: are we actually living it out? I believe that before we can make disciples, we must first become disciples who are pleasing to the Lord—because making disciples is ultimately a matter of **life influencing life**. If we ourselves do not have good spiritual disciplines, how can we expect others to develop them? If we are not living out the life of Christ, how can we hope for others to experience true transformation? As the apostle Paul said: “Make the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). If we do not intentionally seize opportunities and redeem our time to equip ourselves, we will often be pulled away by the world, continuing to wear the old self instead of putting on the new. May the Lord help us to actively engage in church ministries and take part in the trainings offered by the Christian Witness Center, so that we may become disciples who are pleasing to the Lord. Don’t miss the opportunity to join the Christian Witness Center’s Discipleship Training this August—equip yourself, so that you can fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples for the Lord!

Future Meetings

(1) August Bible Camp (7/27 to 8/2)

This time, we will be studying the Pauline Epistles. We thank the Lord for leading Pastor Chihao Shen to teach this course. Registration has already closed. If you missed the deadline, please sign up for the August Discipleship Training to prepare for the January Bible Camp, which will cover the General Epistles. 79 brothers and sisters have registered. Since June 8, they have been working on their final assignment: writing an assigned topic. As a result, the CWC coworkers, speakers, and other counselors are busy reading those reports. We ask the Lord not only to grant the participants heavenly wisdom in writing their reports, but also to give coworkers wisdom and discernment to guide the students well, even amidst their busy ministries.

(2) August Discipleship Training (8/3 to 8/9)

When we lead people to believe in Jesus and bring them join the church, someone needs to nurture and disciple them. That’s why our own spiritual training and equipping is so important. Before the fall semester begins, the August Discipleship Training is a great opportunity for Christians to be equipped (since the next discipleship training won’t be until December, when Fall semester ended). People often ask us, “Why isn’t the August discipleship training scheduled before the August Bible Camp? That way I could be trained first and then qualify to attend the Bible camp.” Actually, this was a thoughtful arrangement made by Pastor Ko many years ago. Since some summer classes would not be over until early August, and every school would be closed in the second week of August, and the third week in August the local churches would start busy preparing for hosting new students, etc. With all these considerations, we would rather “sacrifice” the August Bible Camp so that everyone can come to participate in the August Discipleship Camp, which shows how much we value Discipleship Training. Thank the Lord for sending Elder Daniel Luan and Pastor Jerry Jiang as speakers. Elder Luan is well known to us. He accepted Christ in his youth and dedicated his whole life to God. He not only studied and worked diligently but also actively served in the church, was ordained as an

elder, and is now the senior pastor at Rutgers Community Christian Church. Pastor Jerry Jiang will be joining us for the first time. He is a young pastor who, after earning his undergraduate degree in finance, joined Campus Crusade for Christ and launched student ministry. He later pursued theological studies in Singapore and served in a local church there. In 2018, he was sent by the church to do business missions among minority people groups in China. He is currently pastoring at Southlake Chinese Christian Church in northern Chicago. Their teaching topics include: Christian Journey through Book of Psalms, Joyfully Reading of the Old Testament, The Book of First John, Spiritual Companionship, and Revival Messages through Biblical Characters, and more. This is a valuable opportunity for Christians of all ages—young, middle-aged, and senior—to be equipped. Don't miss it! The [registration form](#) **has already been posted on CWC website**. Please download and register. The deadline—our latest possible extension—is August 1st. We encourage brothers and sisters not only to sign up for yourself, but also to invite fellow church brothers and sisters to join together.

August & September Short-term Missions

Thank the Lord! Over the past several years, God has continued to move churches on both the East and West Coasts, as well as in Texas, to come to the Midwest for short-term missions. This year, we have two mission tiers: one from August 15 to 24, and another from September 5 to 14.

As of the end of May, when registration closed, we had three teams scheduled for August and eight teams for September. (Some of the teams are large and can be divided into eleven smaller teams). The August teams will be sent to locations closer to the Center, such as Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Arkansas, and Illinois. The September teams will go to farther states. Due to a decrease in student populations in many areas, the focus of short-term missions this year is no longer limited to students or new arrivals. Instead, any gospel friend who has not yet believed in Christ is now the mission target of these teams.

I often encourage the churches in the Midwest who host and partner with these short-term mission teams using 3 John 5–8: “For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.” The itineraries will be posted on our August and September prayer calendars. Please remember their gospel efforts in your prayers, as it is written in Romans 10:15: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Past Meeting Reports

(1) May Discipleship Training and May Lay-minister Training

The May Discipleship Training Camp (May 18–23) and the May Lay-minister Training (May 23–26)—designed for full-time working brothers and sisters—were both completed by God's grace under the Lord's leading. 30 brothers and sisters attended the discipleship training along with their children, and nearly 70 along with about their 30 children, participated in the May Lay-minister training. The two speakers—Pastor David Wu and Pastor Benjamin Tam—shared from

the Book of Romans on topics such as the Christian faith, the Christian life, key insights from the Book of Joshua, reading the Gospel of John in Greek, and Christian character formation. In the following May Lay-minister Training, Pastor Wu, along with Pastor Samuel Yang, and Elder Albert Shyu continued to teach specifically for full-time workers on subjects such as: Balancing work, family, and ministry; Christian work ethics; Biblical equipping and spiritual renewal messages. All brothers and sisters were deeply edified and enriched through the trainings.

(2) Youth Camp

Just five days after the two training camps concluded, the Youth Camp took place from June 1 to 7, with 30 young people participating. Pastors Steve Tan, Alex Lynch, and Barry Edwards provided rich teaching on biblical truth, life application, and missions. On Wednesday afternoon, the youth also went to nearby nursing homes to serve and share the gospel. The young people were greatly blessed by the experience and are already looking forward to reconnecting at this year's Winter Retreat or next year's Youth Camp.

Sunday Online Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Although the pandemic is over, the coworkers have decided to continue holding the online Bible study and prayer meeting on Sunday evenings, as it serves two purposes. First: it helps everyone begin preparing for the Bible camp in advance, so that when the deadline gets closer, you won't feel unprepared and want to give up. Of course, if you're not attending the Bible camp, you can still systematically study the Bible with us. Our coworkers will teach Bible study methods, how to do outlines, and how to write thematic reports, etc. This semester, we will be studying "The Pauline Epistles." The second 30 minutes is for everyone to pray in one heart for CWC ministry according to the center's monthly prayer calendar. Therefore, if you have burden to pray for CWC ministry, you can join the prayer meeting as well as study the Bible together. To avoid affecting brothers and sisters' work or school the next day, we have decided to shorten the meeting to one hour (7:00-8:00 PM Central Time). We will use Zoom, with the ID: 85888709271 and the password: 567482. We invite everyone to come and study the Bible together and pray for the Center.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

1. Thanksgiving for God's leading in the May Discipleship Training, the May Lay-minister Training, and the June Youth Camp. Please continue to pray for the upcoming August Bible Camp and August Discipleship Training beginning at the end of July. Pray that God would prepare brothers and sisters to attend and be equipped.
2. Pray for the two tiers of short-term mission teams in August and September. May God bless the feet of those who bring good news and proclaim the gospel. Also pray for good collaboration between the teams and local churches and campuses, so that much fruit of salvation may be borne everywhere they go.
3. For our co-workers:

- Mrs. Ko: Praise the Lord for healing and relieving much of my physical discomfort. Acupuncture has also helped, and overall I'm feeling somewhat better. Please pray for continued healing, especially for the wear-and-tear pain in my left shoulder, hip, and knee. Also, pray for safety and protection in traveling to and from school when picking up and dropping off my grandson with granddaughter in the car.
 - Sister Cindy Chiang: Facing many daily needs at the Center—from office work, planning various camps, preparing weekend messages, plus this month to coordinate short-term mission team schedules, to read Bible camp reports submitted by brothers and sisters. Pray that God would grant me wisdom and discernment to manage everything well and make the most of each day. I am especially thankful for the good health the Lord has provided—His grace is sufficient!
 - Pray for a deeper heart of dependence on the Lord as I prepare for the Pauline Epistles Bible Camp in late July and early August, and the August Discipleship Training. Pray for faithfulness in my ministry across the Midwest, for me to walk with and lead brothers and sisters in Columbia and surrounding areas to fulfill God's purpose. Also, pray that my wife and me will build a Christ-centered home together with joy as we raise our three children.
 - Pastor Charles Huang: Please pray for student outreach at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in the new semester. Ask the Lord to help the church with effective outreach, to meet new gospel friends and Christians. Also pray for my wife and me as we shepherd the church, that the Lord would grant us wisdom and spiritual gifts to help with family and student ministries. Pray also for God's blessing on the August Bible Camp, Discipleship Training, and the short-term missions in August and September organized by CWC. Lastly, pray for the salvation of my parents.
 - American Co-worker (Scott Jerome): (1) Please pray for Becci, who will be helping with two youth camps this month, and with CWC's two camps in July and August. (2) Pray for Scott's parents' health. His mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, is currently in a nursing home. Her condition has slightly improved—please give thanks and continue to pray. (3) Also pray for our church's pastor's wife, Mrs. Yoder, who keeps having seizures. Ask the Lord give wisdom to the doctors to find out the cause.
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