



基督工人中心

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January - March 2025 Prayer Letter

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

In the beginning of this year, the whole world was affected by the extreme arctic blast, and the Midwest had not been exempted from the course of it! Mid-February, we have also encountered an "unseasonal" below freezing point snap with inches of snow covered the ground. Despite this, I know that the roots and tubers buried deep in the hard soil all winter are waiting for the weather to warm up in March. They will soon break through the ground and bloom beautiful flowers. "The plans of the year begin in spring." Spring brings new prospect and hope to people. As nature is about to awaken, should we, Christians, also shed the winter gloom and be revived by God again? In spring, when trees, flowers, and plants sprout new life, doesn't it also remind us that we should lead more new lives into the kingdom of our Savior, Jesus? Since most colleges and universities designate a week for spring break in March, the CWC has scheduled a "Spring Break Gospel Camp". After surveying the spring break time of various schools, we specifically set the Gospel Camp from March 14th (Friday evening) to March 17th (Monday noon). Whether you want to use the spring break to rest or catch up school works, you can still find time to come before the Lord for a spiritual renewal, and use this great opportunity to bring your gospel friends to hear the good news.

Some Christians often have misconception that Gospel Camp is only for or suitable for gospel friends, but this is not the sole purpose for which we originally established the Gospel Camp! I often think about the story of the paralyzed man being healed in Mark 2:1-12. If his friends were not convicted that only Jesus could heal him, the four of them wouldn't have gathered to carry him on his mat (the mat has four corners!) to seek Jesus. They pursued relentlessly until they reached the house where Jesus was preaching. However, there were so many people there that they couldn't even get through the door. But this did not extinguish the determination of the paralyzed man's friends to get him to Jesus. So, without hesitation, they tore off the roof of the house (which might have caused the house owner to demand compensation for the roof later) to lower the paralyzed man directly in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He healed the man on the spot. People who don't believe in the Lord don't know the benefits of the gospel and may lack the motivation (the ability to walk) to get to know Jesus. But we, who have tasted God's grace, should strive to let others share in the benefits of the gospel. I remember Pastor Billy Ko often said, "If Christians don't come to the Gospel Camp, how can gospel friends come?" He even encouraged Christians to actively tell their friends, "I have already signed up and I have a car, I can take you there." This aligns perfectly with the theme of our upcoming gospel camp: "Make Me a Blessing" In the final week, may the Lord inspire us: as everything in nature is revived in spring, after attending the big meetings in December, may we all experience spiritual revival once again. The Gospel Camp does not require full-time participation, so whether your school has already had spring break that week or not, you can still come and pursue the Lord and bring others to believe in Jesus.

As we face the new year, the theme for this year's prayer newsletter will be "Press on Toward the Goal." Before the Gospel Camp, we specially invited Brother Liang Chen, a board member of the Center, to share on "Becoming a Willing Evangelist."

Become a Willing Evangelist

(Liang Chen)

The Lord Jesus had a perfect life goal while on earth, which was to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). When He began His ministry, He preached the gospel of God (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14; Luke 4:18). Before He ascended to heaven, He entrusted the mission of preaching the gospel to His disciples. God also raises up those who preach the gospel in every generation. In today's era, how can we become people who are willing to preach the gospel to the lost? Let us learn from the example of Philip the Evangelist.

In Acts Chapter 6, Philip was chosen as a deacon, along with six others, to manage the distribution of food in the Jerusalem church. However, in the beginning of Chapter 8, the church in Jerusalem was facing severe persecution. At that time, Philip also faced great challenges: his ministry ended abruptly just as it was bearing fruit, leaving him essentially "unemployed"; the disciples were scattered, and he had to move his family out of Jerusalem; his good coworker Stephen had just been martyred, and he might wonder if he would be the next target. Despite these pressures, Philip did not retreat. Instead, he became even more determined to share the gospel, leading to a significant transformation in his life. From his life journey, we can learn the following six exemplary points, represented by the acronym GOSPEL:

1. Philip was a God-led person. When Philip was a deacon in Jerusalem and was very effective in his service, God led him to Samaria through great persecution; when he was preaching in Samaria and reaping a great harvest, God sent him to the wilderness of Judah to preach the gospel; before the Ethiopian eunuch could thank Philip, after being baptized, the Spirit of God took him to another place to preach the gospel. Throughout his journey, God led Philip out of his comfort zone time and time again and sent him to new gospel fields, and he completely surrendered to God's guidance, without complaining, retreating, or delaying. Are we willing to seek and submit to God's guidance like Philip?
2. Philip was an Obedient person. Before ascending to heaven, the Lord Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples, commanding them to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Philip's gospel preaching mirrored this pattern, like a "miniature version" of this verse: he was first in Jerusalem, then went to Samaria, then went to the wilderness of Judah, and traveled all over Azotus (Judea), and finally arrived in Caesarea, which was the "end of the earth" of Palestine at that time. He not only obeyed God's leading, but also faithfully obeyed the Lord Jesus' Great Commission. Are we willing to obey the Lord's Great Commission like Philip and act for it?
3. Philip was a Spirit-filled person. Like the other six deacons, Philip was a man "of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom" (Acts 6:3). His preaching of the gospel did not rely on his own ability and wisdom, but completely relied on the Holy Spirit, just as Paul said: "my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Corinthians 2:4). Preaching the gospel requires not only spoken words, but also a life testimony. Are we willing to let the Holy Spirit control our lives like Philip and rely on Him to preach the gospel?
4. Philip was a person Preaching Christ. Acts 8 repeatedly emphasizes the message Philip preached: "proclaiming Christ" (Acts 8:5), "preaching the good news about the kingdom of God" (Acts 8:12), "(preaching) the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 8:12), "preaching the new good news about Jesus" (Acts 8:35), "preaching the gospel" (Acts 8:40). No matter when or where, Philip took proclaiming Christ as his mission and core message. And his listeners were filled with joy after receiving the gospel (Acts 8:8, 39), because only the gospel of Christ can bring true joy and peace to the lost. Are we willing to always keep Christ at the center and faithfully proclaiming Him like Philip?
5. Philip was an Eager evangelist. As soon as he arrived in Samaria, he began to preach the gospel and led many people to believe in the Lord. Later, Philip was willing to endure the heat to preach the gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch, showing that his inner zeal for the gospel surpassed the heat of the Gaza desert (the external environment). Moreover, his eagerness was not momentary but lasted a lifetime. From Acts 8 to Acts 21, spanning over twenty years, Philip maintained his goal and commitment to preaching the gospel and eventually became the only person in Acts who was given the title of "Philip the evangelist" (Acts 21:8). This shows that preaching the gospel has become his very identity. Not only that, his eagerness to preach the gospel probably influenced his coworkers and family: Peter and John also preached the gospel in many villages of Samaria on their way back to Jerusalem (Acts 8:25), and Philip's four daughters also spoke the word of God (Acts 21:8). Are we willing to keep a long-lasting eagerness like Philip to share the gospel and inspire our coworkers and families to do the same?
6. Philip was an evangelist who Loves souls. When the church was persecuted, Philip did not flee to Samaria for refuge. Instead, he went to preach the gospel. Because he was full of compassion for lost souls, just like the Lord Jesus (Matthew

9:36). His burden for the souls of unbelievers far exceeded his concern for his own safety. Later, when Peter and John arrived to assist in the Samaritan revival, Philip showed no jealousy or resentment. Instead, he obeyed God's leading and focused on the salvation of souls, rather than personal authority or gifts. Afterward, he was taken to Azotus, and "as he passed through, he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea" (Acts 8:40). His "traveling around" footprint mirrored that of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 4:23, 9:35), unwilling to miss anyone who needed the gospel. Are we willing to prioritize soul-winning over our own difficulties, busyness, or comfort zone like Philip?

We are amid a "war of the ages" to save souls, just as the chorus of the hymn "The Conflict of the Ages" asks, "Have your eyes caught the vision? Have your hearts felt the thrill? To the call of the Master do you answer, I will?" These questions challenge every believer. Philip lived a life fully committed to the gospel and became a faithful witness of the Lord Jesus. He was God-led, Obedient, Spirit-filled, Preaching Christ, Eager for the Gospel, and Loving Souls. May God also grant us the very same heart today, that we may rely on the Lord to advance the gospel together, until He comes!

Gospel Camp (3/14 evening to 3/17 noon)

As mentioned earlier, the theme for this year's Gospel Camp is "Make Me a Blessing" This topic is aimed at both Christians and gospel friends. The gospel should not be kept to ourselves because "freely you have received, freely give." God has prepared two speakers for us this time: Pastor Rev. Tsu-Kung Chuang and Pastor Puong Lau. For Christians, the spiritual messages will focus on "God's Care and Redemption" and "Facing Life's Challenges." In addition to the evangelistic message on "Make Me A Blessing," there will also be different special topics prepared for gospel friends, such as: "A Carefree Life," "The Paradox of Life," and "What is Life?"; and "Models of Life," "Discipleship Formation," and "God's Calling Us." for believers. Furthermore, California Christian Church in Christ- South Valley will send six short-term mission team members to assist. They will lead gospel groups in the mornings and evenings, and in the afternoons, they will hold special workshop. These topics will mainly explore life issues from the perspective of believers which will enrich the content of the Gospel Camp. The topics include: "Walking with God for a Steadfast Life," "Overcoming Pressure and Challenges," "Serving in the Church," "Where to Go in an Era of Change," and "Grace in the Wilderness." Please do not miss out this opportunity, not only come and participate yourself, but also invite Christians and gospel friends from your area to join as well. [Click here for detailed information.](#)

Past Meetings Report

Winter Conference

Last year marked the first time in the CWC history that we left Missouri and moved to Rogers, Arkansas to hold the Conference. Thank the Lord that our initial concerns, such as needed funds, the unfamiliar environment, and whether it would affect people's willingness to participate, were all resolved by God. We have truly experienced that God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts, and that when He works, He will surely bring it to completion. All of our coworkers found out that the design of the Embassy Suite hotel to be very convenient, making loading and unloading very easy and efficient, saving us a lot of time.

We are especially grateful for the full support of the brothers and sisters from the Fayetteville church: from preparing meals for the coworkers before the Conference, unloading all our equipment on December 18, running errands, buying supplies during the event, washing the lunch dishes on December 25, to helping us load everything back into the vehicles. As a result, the whole group and all the equipment returned to the Center by 8 PM, smoothly, almost at the same time as when we returned from Kansas City, Missouri.

Although people from the northern states were affected by the change of venue, more people from the southern states attended, so there were nearly a thousand participants, including adults and children. Each speaker gave their best, sharing their precious experiences and insights before the Lord, and the brothers and sisters gained a lot from every session. God also sent several short-term mission teams to assist us. This time, 19 gospel friends accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, and 11 were baptized during the Winter Retreat, with a higher conversion rate than the previous year. We thank and praise the Lord.

After the Winter Conference ended on December 25, thank the Lord, in addition to the local brothers and sisters, some who will attend the December Discipleship Training, plus the short-term mission team members (who stayed for an extra day), worked together to dismantle equipment, pack boxes, and load goods onto the vehicles. Eventually, everyone, along with the vehicles and goods, safely returned to the center. We were able to begin discipleship training that same evening (from December 25 to 29). We thank and praise the Lord!

December Discipleship Training

More than 100 brothers and sisters, along with their 40 children, attended the Training. In addition to the brothers and sisters' eager hearts and longing eyes filling the entire Center, the special feature of this Discipleship Training was that both speakers came from abroad. One was Pastor Gong Mingpeng from Canada, and the other was Teacher Joshua Peng from the war-zone Israel. Although the time was short, everyone was deeply impacted by the teachings on victorious Christian living and being doers of the Word. The speakers taught us how to live out our faith in a real and practical way. Additionally, Teacher Peng shared from his own experiences, using Romans 9:3 to explain God's heart toward the Jewish people and His heart toward us, the Gentile saints. He also taught us hermeneutics through methods such as background exegesis, context principles, and Hebrew exegesis. Everyone left spiritually and intellectually satisfied.

January Bible Camp

There was no break in the schedule. After the Discipleship Training concluded at noon on December 29, the Bible camp began that very evening! The entire Center's focus immediately shifted to a fervent atmosphere of studying the "the Book of Acts and the Life of Paul." Sixty-one brothers and sisters, along with their 25 children, participated. Pastor David Su and Sister Grace Lee led us in a detailed study of 28 chapters of Acts. After six days of solid learning, thank the Lord, by the end of the camp, everyone could recite the outline of each chapter of Acts easily. After this meeting, 47 brothers and sisters had already submitted their application forms for August Bible Camp, eagerly preparing to study "The Pauline Epistles." Everyone had deeply tasted the sweetness of God's Word, and now they have begun preparing step by step according to the study schedule. If you are interested in participating, please register early and begin preparing your heart and assignments. [Click here for detailed information.](#)

Future Meetings

(1) May Discipleship Training (5/18-23) and Memorial Weekend Lay-Minister Training (5/23-26)

The speakers for the May Discipleship Training Camp will be Pastor David Wu, Pastor Benjamin Tam, and CWC coworkers. May Lay-Minister Training is especially reserved and prepared for believers who are working full time and will be held during Memorial long weekend. The speakers include Pastor David Wu, Pastor Samuel Yang, and Elder Albert Shyu (who retired from his job last year with many years of serving in the church). More information will be provided in the next prayer letter. In the meantime, we ask everyone to mark your calendars early, begin preparing yourselves, and encourage brothers and sisters to participate. Please also pray for the two meetings, the speakers, and the coworkers. The registration form will soon be posted on the CWC website.

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

This time, we will be studying "The Pauline Epistles." If you are interested in learning, the syllabus and registration form are available on CWC website for you to download. The strict registration deadline is June 15th. Please register as early as possible and start preparing your assigned homework. [Click here for detailed information.](#)

Sunday Evening 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. 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.

New Online Donation

Thank the Lord! Since last April, we finally opened an account where we can receive donations via Zelle. Over the past year, we have seen its effectiveness, especially during the Winter Conference. Although the overall expenses were considerably high, many participants, and even brothers and sisters who didn't attend, were able to donate by scanning the QR code with their phones and using Zelle from home. We thank the Lord for allowing us to greatly experience that "God opens the

windows of heaven and pours blessings upon us." Therefore, brothers and sisters who are willing to give can make full use of this method for donations. This will greatly save everyone the hassle of writing checks and mailing them, [click here for detailed operation](#).

Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

1. Thank the Lord! He abundantly provided and led us through the three gatherings this winter. Please continue to pray for the search for this year's Winter Conference venue. May the Lord guide us clearly to the place He wants us to go and prepare the way for us.

2. Pray for the participation of brothers, sisters, and gospel friends in the Gospel Camp. Especially pray that God will open the hearts of gospel friends to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

3. Continue to pray for the preparations of the May Discipleship Training, the May Lay-minister Training, the June Youth Camp, and the August Bible Camp, as well as for the brothers and sisters to prepare their hearts to participate.

4. For Coworkers:

* Mrs. Ko: Thank the Lord, temperature in Vegas began to rise to the seventies two weeks ago, but this also triggered my seasonal allergies. Pray that the Lord will ease the symptoms of my allergies. Thank the Lord for providing the right contractor, and the repair work in the basement is nearly finished. Thank you for your prayers.

* Sister Cindy Chiang: Thank the Lord! Although last winter, as well as January and February, were busy, I was kept healthy by God's protection physically, mentally, and spiritually. Even though the flu and viruses were all around, I was not infected at all, which is a great mercy and grace from God. Please continue to pray for the many upcoming tasks in ministry of the Word, CWC administrative work, and preparation for all future meetings. Pray that the Lord will strengthen my faith in Him, and grant me heavenly wisdom and understanding to align with His will and make good use of the time each day.

* Pastor Qinglong Liang: Pray that the Lord will help me continue to diligently pursue a deeper understanding of the Bible and the obedience to His Word, and in prayer. Grant me a wholehearted desire to please God in all my interactions with others. Grant me a diligent and joyful heart in serving at home, in Christian Witness Center, and in the Columbia Chinese Christian Church, as well as in other places. Help me to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as I prepare for the service at the March Gospel Camp.

* Pastor Charles Huang: Please pray for the student ministry in Champaign, IL. Pray that the Lord will use me to build up disciples and establish an outreach ministry for the gospel with coworkers. Please pray for the salvation of my parents. Please pray for my eldest daughter's life and studies at Moody Bible Institute. Also, pray for my second and third children as they apply to study at a Christian high school next year.

* American coworker (Scott Jerome): Please pray for the following three things: (1) My daughter and son-in-law are moving from Louisiana to Springfield, MO recently. They are both looking for jobs; (2) Scott's parents' health; (3) Ministries at camp and at church.

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.

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.

**Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your donations. All receipts for 2024 (except for a few Zelle donations that did not include an ID or a valid address) have been sent out. If you have not received yours, it may have been returned to the center due to an incorrect address. Please contact the Center for assistance.

Emmanuel

In the Lord,

Sister Cindy Chiang