基督工人中心
CHRISTIAN WITNESS CENTER

August, September 2025 Prayer Letter

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

When you receive this letter, we are getting ready to set out with the September short-term mission teams to various campuses and churches to share the gospel. Please remember the footsteps of the short-term mission teams in your prayers. This September team consists of over ten churches from the East Coast, West Coast, and Texas, with a total of 77 team members, possibly the largest short-term mission teama ever sent out in CWC history. Their journey extends from as far north as Grand Forks, ND and Duluth, MN near the Canadian border, to the south in Midland and Lubbock, TX, west to Hays, KS near the Colorado border, and east to Montgomery, AL near the Gulf of Mexico — spanning 1,300 miles north to south and about 1,100 miles west to east. These eight teams will go to a total of thirteen states: Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Illinois. Some of these locations may already have churches and Bible study groups, but most do not have a full-time ministers, only serving by a group of faithful and dedicated brothers and sisters. We thank God that the annual short-term mission team can visit them to strengthen and support their works, as well as share the gospel widely in the area. We pray the Lord would add more people to the local churches. We will also be going to some places where Bible study groups used to meet but no longer do, such as Pittsburg (KS), Sioux Falls and Vermillion (SD), and Tahlequah (OK), as well as new mission fields like Fairfield (IA), Hays (KS), and Livingston (AL). The journey is long and the responsibility heavy, but what is most needed is your support in prayers. The team's daily schedule is posted on our prayer calendar — [click here].

“He who goes to and from weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.” (Psalm 126:5-6)

The August short-term mission team consisted of 28 members. On August 18, they spent the day serving at the center—helping with painting, cleaning, and organizing the library. That evening, as usual, the teams gathered to share testimonies from the previous weekend’s ministry. CWC coworker Pastor Peter Liang shared the above verse and asked us a question:“We all hope to return rejoicing with a harvest, but have we gone out weeping to sow the seeds?” As he was sharing, he himself began to weep. The room fell completely silent, with only the sound of quiet sobbing here and there. After the meeting, I asked him why he was so moved. He said it was the very verse he had read that morning during his personal devotion. I told him, “This is the Holy Spirit speaking to you — and also reminding

us through this verse. It's truly precious." When we share the gospel, hoping others will be saved and that we might bear joyful fruit, have we ever wept and earnestly pleaded for the souls of the nonbelievers?

As the September short-term mission team is about to depart again, and with the new school year starting and churches and campuses praying to bear more fruit for the Lord, this issue features a special sharing by Brother Liang Chen, a CWC board member, titled **"**Now Is the Day of Salvation**"**, which also responds to our monthly prayer letter's theme: "Proclaim the Gospel, Make disciples."

Now Is the Day of Salvation

(Brother Chen)

At the beginning of August, during CWC Bible Camp, many brothers and sisters joyfully gathered to study Paul's epistles together. Through the speakers' teachings and the sharing of brothers and sisters, everyone received rich spiritual nourishment. From Paul's life we have learned many good examples, and what struck me most is his sense of urgency in preaching the gospel.

Many of us, myself included, often struggle with "procrastination." Even in the matter of evangelism, we tend to delay, missing valuable opportunities. Yet in *John 4:35*, the Lord Jesus reminded His disciples: *"Lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest."* There is no need to wait four more months—the right time to seek God is now, and the best time to do His work is also now. Paul echoed this teaching of the Lord. In the opening of *2 Corinthians 6*, he exhorts believers, as God's fellow workers, not to receive His grace in vain but to live a life worthy of such grace. He quotes *Isaiah 49:6*, affirming that Jesus Christ is the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament, who has accomplished the wonderful salvation. Immediately Paul declares: *"Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation!"* The Greek word for "behold" also appears in *John 4:35*. In both instances, it serves as a deliberate reminder that the best time is *now*.

Why did Paul have such urgency? In the earlier chapters of *2 Corinthians*, he has already spoken of the faith, glory, power, and hope that come through ministry. At the end of chapter 5, he emphasizes once again the identity and mission of those who serve. A Christian who truly understands his identity (reconciled to God through Christ and sent as Christ's ambassador) and his mission (to plead with others to be reconciled to God) will naturally develop such a burden. When we truly grasp the preciousness of the gospel, we will, like Paul, eagerly share it—as if we were debtors hastening to repay. On the other hand, when we realize the dreadful consequences of being separated from God, we too will, like Paul, even "beg" people to accept Jesus Christ. In any case, Paul's desire was to win as many as possible, just as he said: *"I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings"* (*1 Cor. 9:23*).

The "time" and "day" Paul refers to mean the present—*today*. Why is *now* the best time? First, the past is gone. Even if we once received God's grace in vain, it cannot be retrieved;

the best opportunity to turn back is now. Second, the Lord Jesus will surely come again. Though we do not know the exact time, His return is nearer every day. As *Romans 13:11* says: *"For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed."* Therefore, we must not delay. Third, this present world, filled with temptations and evil, not only robs us of time but also of our hearts. Thus, Paul exhorts in *Ephesians 5:16*: *"Make the best use of the time, because the days are evil."* In the last days, people will not endure sound teaching, so Paul urges in *2 Timothy 4:2*: *"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season."* Finally, we do not know what tomorrow will bring. Will we still have the chance to share the gospel? Will others still have the chance to hear it? If we miss today's opportunity, we may regret it for life.

Over the past month, I have heard of several sudden tragedies—accidents and illnesses among those around me. Each one reminded me deeply of the need to seize the present moment and share the gospel with those who have not yet believed. Earlier this month, I had my first funeral service. The deceased was a talented and promising young woman who had been admitted to several prestigious universities. Yet just before beginning her college journey, she died in a car accident—a heartbreaking loss. At her funeral, many family members and friends gathered, some of whom had never heard the gospel before. With her family's permission and under God's leading, I was able to proclaim the gospel during the service. This experience made me deeply aware of the fragility and unpredictability of life and strengthened my resolve to take every opportunity to share the gospel with those around me.

Paul's urgency is not only a call to the unsaved, that they may believe and be saved, but also a reminder to believers. We too need to be renewed daily by the gospel, continually turning to God and living in reconciliation with Him. Therefore, beyond evangelism to unbelievers, we must also build one another up in truth and love. As *Hebrews 3:13* exhorts: *"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."*

This September, short-term mission teams from several regions, coordinated by CWC, will be sent to many campuses, fellowships, and churches across the Midwest to preach the gospel and build up disciples. Although the number of Chinese students in many universities has declined sharply this year—seemingly not the most favorable time for evangelism—Paul reminds us that *now* is the favorable time. We hope that local brothers and sisters united join hearts with the mission teams, seize the opportunity, and work together to advance the gospel. In addition, they can encourage the discouraged, support the weak, and bring back those who have strayed.

We are during a great "war for souls." As the hymn "The Conflict of the Ages" says: *"See the children of the kingdom joined in heart and in hand, Pressing forward in the struggle to redeem this fair land…… Toward the final consummation we are hastening on, And the time for loyal service will forever be done."* May it begin with me, and may it begin *now*!

Future Meetings

(1) <u>December Winter Conference (12/20 evening to 12/24 noon)</u>

Thank the Lord! This year's Winter Conference will be held at the St. Louis Marriott Grand Hotel. St. Louis is a big city with convenient transportation hub and, with this location being farther east, it will be more accessible for states east of Missouri. God has also prepared speakers who God has used greatly with various gifts for this Conference: Pastor Johann Lai: Theme messages — "The Journey of Faith to Glory"; Mrs. Esther Lai: Bible study methods — "Ten-Step Procedures of Bible Study"*;* Pastor Tsu-Kung Chuang: Evangelistic meetings and gospel messages; Pastor Brian Lam: Spiritual Renewal; Elder Manchild Yu: "The Ministry of Life"; Mrs. Ijia Hao: Family Seminar; and Pastor Albert Yip will lead the youth program. More info will be released in October. Please save the date and invite church members and gospel friends to attend.

(2) <u>December Discipleship Training (12/24 evening to 12/28 noon)</u>

Thank the Lord for preparing Pastor Luke Tsai, president of Christian Witness Seminary (California), and Mrs. Ijia Hao , professor at New York Faith Bible Seminary, as speakers. More details will be available in October. Online registration is open now — [click here]. Please save the date and invite others to join.

(3) <u>January Bible Camp (12/28 evening to 1/3 noon)</u>

After the study of the Pauline Epistles, we will study the General Epistles. Speakers: Pastor Daniel Shen and CWC coworkers. Registration is open online — [click here]. Please start preparing early. Deadline: November 15.

August & September Short-term Missions

Thank the Lord! In recent years, churches from both coasts and Texas have continually been moved to participate in Midwest short-term missions. This year, there are two rounds: August 15–24 and September 5–14. The August teams came from California, New Jersey, and Texas — three teams total — and served in states relatively "closer" to the Center, such as Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Kentucky and Illinois. God also granted fruit from their gospel work in these areas.

In September, there are eight teams (some with larger numbers, so we split them into ten smaller teams). They are going to the more distant states mentioned earlier. Due to current special U.S.–China relations, obtaining visas for certain sensitive fields of study has become more difficult. However, we tell the short-term mission team: *anyone who has not yet believed in the Lord is a gospel target.* I often use 3 John 5–8 to encourage the churches partnering with the short-term teams: "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..."** Their schedule is also listed in the September prayer calendar. Please remember their gospel footsteps in your prayers (Romans 10:15).

Past Meeting Reports

<u>August Bible Camp (7/27–8/2) and August Discipleship Training (8/3–9)</u>

Thank the Lord for leading Pastor Daniel Shen to teach "Pauline Epistles." 66 brothers and sisters attended along with their 23 children, plus CWC coworkers and speaker. Though

Pauline Epistles are quite challenging, everyone encouraged each other, studied diligently, and enjoyed it deeply. By the end, 41 participants had already registered for the January Bible Camp on General Epistles.

For the August Discipleship Training, 34 participants with their 15 children attended the meeting. We thank God for the teachings of Elder Daniel Luan and young Pastor Jerry Jiang covering spiritual topics such as: Christian Journey through Book of Psalms, Joyfully Reading of the Old Testament, The Book of First John, Spiritual Companionship, and Devotional Messages through Biblical Characters. Praise the Lord, everyone was richly blessed.

Sunday Online Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Every month we post the prayer requests on our website. You can remember us in your personal prayers, or pray for us at your church's prayer meetings. However, a great opportunity to pray together is during the Bible studying and prayer meeting led by the coworkers every Sunday night at 7 PM. This prayer meeting also has the purpose of helping everyone to start preparing for the Bible Camp in advance, so that when the time comes, you won't be caught unprepared and think about giving up. Of course, if you are not attending the Bible Camp, you can still systematically study the Bible with us. This semester, we will be studying the 'General Epistles.' In the first 30 minutes, the coworkers will lead everyone in studying the General Epistles chapter by chapter plus guidance on how to study, write outlines, and topical reports. In the second 30 minutes, we will pray in one accord for CWC ministry and coworkers according to the monthly prayer calendar. So if you are willing to pray for us, you can join our Bible study and prayer meeting. In order not to affect the brothers and sisters' work and school the next day, we have shortened it 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. We give thanks to the Lord for His protection over the three short-term mission teams in August. Please continue to pray for the eight teams departing on September 5. May God bless their steps as they bring the gospel and proclaim the good news. Also pray for good partnerships between the teams and the local campuses and churches, so that fruitful harvests of salvation may be seen in every place.
2. After the September short-term mission ends, we will immediately begin preparing for the three major winter meetings. Please pray for wisdom and guidance to shepherd the flock according to God’s will. Also, please prepare your heart to attend at least one event this winter to be equipped and invite others as well.
3. For our co-workers:
    - Mrs. Sylvia Ko: Thank the Lord! He has granted me sufficient strength, and by His grace, the August discipleship training ministry was completed smoothly. Please pray that the Lord continues to watch over and bless my grandson and granddaughter's

needs that I may lead them to fear and know our Creator and Savior from a young age.

○ Sister Cindy Chiang: Facing many needs of the Center, whether it is office work, planning for various meetings, or preparing for weekend messages, in addition, this month we will embark on a ten-day journey with the short-term mission team. Each aspect requires God's grace. May the Lord grant me the wisdom and intelligence to organize effectively and make good use of my time each day. May the name of the Lord be glorified!

○ Pastor Qinglong Liang**:** Pray that I will faithfully co-labor with brothers and sisters and the mission teams in the Midwest short-term mission trips from August 15–24 and September 5–14; may the Lord use me in the Mid-America Chinese Christian Summer Retreat from August 29 to September 1; walk alongside brothers and sisters in Columbia and the surrounding areas to fulfill God's will with a humble heart; also pray that I can assist my wife in homeschooling our three children and in building a family that aligns with God's heart.

○ Pastor Charles Huang: Thank the Lord! By God's mercy, my parents made the decision to believe in Christ in July—God has heard our prayers! May God use the Champaign church to prosper the gospel in the new school year. May the Lord also bless the August and September short-term mission teams, granting them good partnership with churches and brothers and sisters across the Midwest, encouraging one another as they proclaim the gospel. Our three children will be starting a new school year—may the Lord watch over their studies and help them grow spiritually as well.

○ Coworker Scott Jerome**:** 1) Pray for the foster boys that were placed with us and for their family; 2) Scott's mom is going home and they are having an in-home caretaker stay with her.3) For our 2 adult daughters that are pregnant and due in January. They are both considered high risk.

4. Financial Needs**:** Pray for God's abundant provision for the center's monthly needs — general, building, and training funds. Pray that more people would experience the blessing of giving.

5. More Coworkers**:** Pray that God would call and lead more new coworkers to join the center's ministry and expand His work throughout the Midwest.

Emmanuel
In the Lord,
Sister Cindy Chiang