2018 九月禱告信 | September Prayer Letter

■ Category: Pastor Letters

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親愛的弟兄姐妹主內平安:

八月是中心同工非常忙碌的日子,八月門徒與同工訓練營與讀經營就已經非常的忙碌了,我八月二十七日清晨才從十天的短宣回家,又要著手準備勞工節週末的美中 夏令會。夏令會結束四天後,九月七日美中短宣隊的腳步就將接踵而來。







基督工人中心 2018 年 9 月禱告月曆 September 2018 Prayer Calendar

主日

星期一

星期二

星期三

星期四

星期五

星期六

照著我所切慕、所盼望的, 沒有一事叫我羞愧。只要凡事放膽, 無論是生是死, 總叫基督在我身上照常顯 因我活著就是基督, 我死了就有益處。(腓立比書 1:20-21)

1 為八月底五隊 短宣隊的事奉感 恩,求主保守各 地事工

2 為週末美中夏令 3 為各校園新同 會禱告,使更多 人歸主,信徒復

會禱告,求主保

10 短宣在美中

為短宣在中心的

4 各地今年添了 許多新生,為各 校園努力傳福音

11 短宣在美中

Manhattan, KS 的福

期間信主弟兄姊 妹的跟進與長進 禱告

5 為在開學與短宣 6 為各地校園同 工能與短官隊有 美好的配搭禱告

7短宣在美中 Little Rock, Conway, AR: Edmonds.

Oxford, MS, Memphis,

21 為高牧師本週

末的事奉與信息

禱告,求主使用

Tuscaloosa, AL

下經費

Tahlequah, OK; Central 佈道會禱告

9短宣在美中

16 短宣在美中

TN; Starkville, MS 的 崇拜事奉禱告

23 為同工週末事

奉的旅程平安禱

告,求主保守與

30 為高牧師本週

Louis, MO的事奉

在 Columbia, St.

為在 Springfield, IL: Joplin, MO; Edmond, OK 事奉禱告,求主 的信息禱告

賜福他們的工作

Brookings, SD; Memphis, 宣隊在各處的福 音腳蹤感謝,求 主堅立

24 求主興起更多

同工參與中心事

工,一同完成美

http://cwcnet.org/cwcsite/3.1/index.php/pastor-letters/138-2018-09-prayer-letter?tmpl=component&print=1&page=

中事工

音事工禱告 17 為八、九月短 18 為高師母化療 19 為維修同工 過程與身體的康 復禱告,求主醫

25 求主供應中 心經濟及人力上 的需要,好為主 多結果子

12 短宣在美中

Tuscaloosa, AL; Hays & 為八、九月短宣 中信主的人禱 告,求主堅立

> Scott 禱告,求主 賜福他家及他手 所作的工

26 為冬令會的籌 備工作禱告,求 主帶領並賜同工

LL的聚會禱告 13 短宣在美中 14 短宣在美中

本週末在各地的 佈道與培訓事工 禱告

20 為各地讀經小 組禱告,求主藉 行傳復興教會與 個人

27 求主預備人心 參加冬令會、十 二月的門訓與讀

8短宣在美中

為 Fayetteville, L.R, AR; Terri Haute, IN

15 短宣在美中

為在 Jonesboro, AR. TN, Murray, KY, Troy & Fargo & Grand Fork, ND的聚會禱告

> 22 為江姊在 MO 與KS州的事奉 禱告,求主賜福

29 為江姊在美中 28 為美國同工房 的事奉禱告,求 子加蓋禱告,求 主保守工程並賜 主賜福

我所禱告的. 就是要你們的愛心在知識和各樣見識上多而又多, 使你們能分別是非(或 作: 喜愛那美好的事), 作誠實無過的人, 直到基督的日子; 並靠著耶穌基督結滿了仁義 的果子, 叫榮耀稱讚歸與神。(腓立比書 1:9-11)



賜福

親愛的弟兄姐妹主內平安:

八月是中心同工非常忙碌的日子,八月門徒與同工訓練營與讀經營就已經非常的忙碌了,我八月二十七日清晨才從十天的短宣回家,又要著手準備勞工節週末的美中夏今會。夏今會結束四天後,九月七日美中短宣隊的腳步就將接踵而來。這一期的禱告信,我將分享:

面對校園事工的興衰

今年很多校園都說學生減少,校園事工難作,甚至也有校園同工認為,校園事工已跌到谷底,好像都沒有人要來參加聚會,邀請人來聚會,好像也沒有什麼果效,五月一批學生同工畢業後,新的學生同工又接不上來,有些事奉的同工又在意想不到中搬遷,似乎團契的學生只剩下數位,都是靈命比較淺薄、不能作什麼,所以事奉的擔子又落到較年長的同工身上,這些年長的同工本來就已有世務纏身,壓力已很重,現又要接回以前的事工,自己又覺得經過數年的歲月,與學生的代溝又有增加,事奉越來越沒有果效,前景非常暗淡,新學期一開始,就掉進灰心無奈的漩渦中,似乎這個校園團契或教會,霎時間好像變成了雞肋,食之無味,卻又棄之可惜!我們應該怎麼辦呢?下面是我的分享:

校園事工不會永遠是一帆風順的,教會事工也是一樣!當人覺得走入低谷的時候,千萬不要灰心失望,要想到哈巴谷先知所說:「雖然無花果樹不發旺,葡萄樹不結果,橄欖樹也不效力,田地不出糧食,圈中絕了羊,棚內也沒有牛;然而,我要因耶和華歡欣,因救我的神喜樂。主耶和華是我的力量;他使我的腳快如母鹿的蹄,又使我穩行在高處。」(哈3:17-19)。先知讓我們看到,他真是覺得已經走到了谷底,真的一無所有,所種的沒有收成,所養的牛羊都絕蹤,實在低到沒有辦法再低,處境非常困難,連活命的指望都成問題。先知卻能從這絕境中出來,留下「從絕境中脫離」的方法給我們:

- 1. 視野從數據中出來 數字增加時,會使人興奮,數字減少時,會使人失望頹喪。眼睛若定睛在數字上,會使人事奉的心情不穩,當我們把自己的眼光「從以神為中心」,變成「以自己為中心」時,最終必以灰心喪志收場。先知學會了將眼目從將數字轉移到神的身上,什麼時候我們的視線能從數字與果效中移走,什麼時候我們就能從壓力中得釋放。數據對世上的人或許重要,但卻不一定是神衡量我們事工的標準,因為「所求於管家的,是要他有忠心。」(林前4:2)
- 2. 眼目轉向神 一 眼睛從環境中出來,就能看見榮耀的神在等待著我們,這就是先知所分享的: 「然而,我要因耶和華歡欣,因救我的神喜樂」(哈3: 18)。 人的眼睛轉向神,就是救恩的開始,先知哈巴谷所經歷的,不是外面的救恩,牛羊還是絕蹤,田園還是不效力,但先知的心卻從頹喪中出來,裡面的黑暗轉為 光明,這是可以等待、且可喜樂的救恩!因為先知的心被神改變,也被神吸引與挑旺,因為神的大能改變他、神的愛融化了他,他就成為一個以神為樂的人。 神的救恩是從人的裡面開始,救恩的改變乃是從裡面湧出到外面,從自己的改變,影響到別人的改變,使別人也能成為以神為樂的人。
- 3. 靠神再次得力量 一 被神改變後,先知在大能的神裡面就重新得力,能夠在惡劣的環境中剛強站立,更能在神的激勵中,不僅能往前行,也能重新得著動力。 先知說: 「主耶和華是我的力量;他使我的腳快如母鹿的蹄」(哈3: 19)。我們仰望神,也能在困難的環境中繼續為主忠心,很快地,我們就可以看見倚靠 主所帶出的果效。

- 4. 去年短宣隊去Kentucky 州一校園傳福音,全校華人學生應該不超過二百人,當地也沒有弟兄姊妹或同工,屬於拓荒傳福音性質。佈道會前同工們感覺可能來參加的人數不多,一同禱告神,立志不看人數多少,都忠心傳主的福音。那天晚上聚會除短宣隊員外,只有三位剛來讀大一的福音朋友來參加,吃過飯後,只剩下兩位參加聚會,他們最後也沒有信主。但他們以後每週都來參加中文查經班,這查經班是由附近三個華人教會同工們,輪流每週開車來回約五小時來帶領學生查經,每次聚會也只有幾個同學。感謝主!這兩位同學就在第一個學期信了主,第二個學期就開始帶領其他同學來參加聚會。今年短宣隊再來到這校園時,這兩位剛信主的姊妹們也邀請他們的朋友來參加,約有40人來參加,大多數是本科生;主奇妙的工作,那晚佈道會約有四、五位信主。我們知道,今年的果效,是建立在過去全年短宣隊、與當地附近幾間教會同工團隊的努力,一同忠心事奉主的結果,他們不看人數多少,風雨無阻,忠心幫助這校園學生信主的結果。不看人數,忠心的事奉,主必記念。時間到了,主必興旺祂的工作。
- 5. 穩行在高處 一 先知說: 「又使我穩行在高處」。仰賴神的人,不僅能衝過困難,更能不斷維持得勝的高度,越走越有能力,越走越多結出美好的果子。他們是在高處穩行的,就是高於困難,困難雖然還在,但困難不在他們的周圍,更不在他們的頭頂上,乃是在他們的腳下,他們是腳踏著困難、並帶著喜樂的心往前行,越走越脫離困難,越走越進入屬天的高處,更多的經歷神,更能按神的心意事奉,在生活與事奉中,更多彰顯神的榮耀與討神喜悅,結出美好的果子。「要穩行在高處」也提醒我們,在困難的事奉光景中,我們先要檢討一下,我們所作的,是否在神的心意中?是否按著神的方法去作?若答案是肯定的,就堅定的依靠神,神會使我們一步一步往前,人數不一定會增加,工作的果效必定隨著我們。

911事件發生之後,自2001年開始,美國政府為了防範恐怖分子的滲透,大量減少學生簽證,各地學生也大量減少,當時來參加門徒訓練營的人數也明顯的減少,因此有同工建議,將門徒訓練營從每年三次減至每年兩次。我深知門徒訓營是完成主耶穌大使命重要的一環,是不應該因來參加的人減少就刪減訓練事工,人多人少我們都當忠心作訓練的工作。我回應同工們說,雖然人少,我們仍然維持每年三次的門徒訓練營,我們向主忠心,主必定繼續使用我們,將來也必定會大大地使用門徒訓練一般來也必定會有更多學生來參加營會。感謝主!不看人數繼續忠心的事奉好幾年後,2008年開始了中國留學生潮,來讀書的學生快速增加,參加門徒訓練營與讀經營的人數,也相對的不斷增加。專心仰望主的人,必能經歷主的大能,他們的路,乃是越走越光明。

曾經有人問我,在我事奉主數十年間,那一段時間是我事奉的高峰?我回答說:「事奉的路應當是沒有高峰也沒有低谷。」沒有高峰,是因為我們要不斷地被保羅的話提醒:「弟兄們,我不是以為自己已經得著了;我只有一件事,就是忘記背後,努力面前的,向著標竿直跑,要得神在基督耶穌裡從上面召我來得的獎賞。」(腓3:13-14),一日沒有達到標竿,就是沒有達到高峰,我們達到的高峰,就是得主獎賞的那天。事奉也不應當有低谷,當我們仰望、與依賴神的時候,「低谷」只是神賜給我們的「安息年」,這段期間,神要我們少一點作在人前的事奉,多點在密室中經歷神,在神的安排中,「低谷」是我們安靜的日子,讓我們注重回到神面前檢討與裝備,準備走更遠的路,為神作更大的工作。當你若覺得你是在「高峰」時,千萬別驕傲,多學習謙卑的功課。當你覺得你是在「低谷」時,千萬別頹喪,快快學習專心仰望祂。保羅給我們美好的榜樣說:「我知道怎樣處卑賤,也知道怎樣處豐富。」讓我們無論在什麼景況中,都持守基督,忠心作祂的僕人。過去多年看到美中的教會與校園團契,不斷在興衰中打轉,但只要有一兩位能專一、謙卑仰望主、忠心為主「守住」、作一個「穩行高處」、又能影響別人、也專心跟從主的人,教會與團契就能憑著信心繼續往前,存著盼望等待神下一回的工作。

八、九月短宣隊:八月短宣計三十七人,共分五隊,分別從加州與New Jersey而來。感謝主!在過去二十多年的八月短宣,今年的天氣是最涼爽的一次,在涼爽的氣候中,短宣隊員更努力的傳福音。與短宣隊一起在各地傳福音,是一件非常喜樂的事,每處都看見神奇妙的作為,雖然很多地方都說學生人數減少,但各地所結福音的果子,比起以前也沒有減少,福音的工場還是非常廣大的,處處都看見神奇妙的作為,美中福音工場非常廣大,求主在各地繼續工作。

九月的短宣隊正在積極籌備中。從九月七日,將再有五間教會,分成七隊短宣隊來美中與我們一同配搭,繼續在各地校園傳福音。除了加州以外,也有從Taxes 而來。他們所走的路程比起八月短宣較遠,除了「附近」的Missouri、Kansas、Arkansas、Oklahoma、Illinois、Iowa州的校園外,更要遠赴 Mississippi、Alabama、

Kentucky、Indiana、S. Dakota, N. Dakota、 Wisconsin 與 Minnesota等地,求主加添各地同工的力量,在這些極需福音的地方,為主得著更多靈魂與日後各地的同工。求主的靈興起,挑旺各地弟兄姊妹同心合意傳福音的心志、帶出更多美好的果子、並堅立各地的福音與關懷事工。

八月兩營會: 感謝主! 約有近一百人來參加這次讀經營, 他們不僅來學習聖經, 也是為了建立自己的靈命, 重新得力, 好面對新一學期的事奉。主藉蘇桂川牧師及師母的信息, 啟發弟兄姊妹看到, 神的話真是又美、又甘甜, 並挑起弟兄姊姊追求神話語的心。讀經營之後接下來的門徒訓練, 也有六十多人來參加門徒訓練, 主藉著莊大能牧師堅定弟兄姊妹愛主作主門徒的心, 並開啟弟兄姊妹神國度的眼界, 看到自己要為神的國度, 更多在本地、與遠方宣教的工場為神所用。李玉惠姊妹站在弟兄姊妹當中, 就是一個活生生的見證, 從她身上與教導中, 大家都羨慕更多愛慕主的話, 更多裝備自己。

一月讀經營: 已開始報名,目的是為了訓練弟兄姊妹讀經方法、帶查經方法、與分享神話語的技巧,好使弟兄姊妹能成為神話語的管家,在教會可以成為帶查經的同工、主日學的老師、或在主日崇拜中傳講信息,作按時分糧的人。讀經營將於12月30日至明年1月5日在中心舉行,內容為使徒行傳,講員為: 諶志豪牧師、及高昭 變老師等。請及早報名,早作功課,預備自己參加,報名截止日期為11月15日,詳情請看中心網站。

十二**月門徒與同工訓練營**:將於12月25至29日在中心舉行,講員有:莊祖鯤牧師、及梁燕城博士等,為了裝備弟兄姊妹成為主的門徒,忠心事奉主。已開始報名,請參閱中心網站。

十二月美中冬令會:目的是為了聯絡美中各地弟兄姊妹同心傳福音,一同帶領福音朋友接受主,又讓弟兄姊妹一同追求主,挑起愛主的心,讓基督的愛能挑旺各地教會。這次講員有:許道良牧師、莊祖鯤牧師、梁燕城博士、李道宏牧師等,請為這次聚會禱告,並開始預備心參加。

代禱事項:

- 1. 為九月初的短盲隊禱告,他們的旅程比八月的隊伍走得更遠,求主加添他們奔跑的平安與力量,並為主多結果子。
- 2. 為高師母身體的健康禱告,並為高牧師、師母的兩兒女在加州與內華達州的工作與生活禱告與感恩。請為師母在正在接受化療禱告,求主賜下同在與醫治。
- 3. 為每日、每週殷勤工作的江士民姊妹禱告,求主給她力量安排冬季三個營會的準備,並求主賜福她每週末在各校園間奔跑、並分享神的話語禱告。
- 4. 為餐廳的擴建禱告, 求主使工程能在十二月營會時順利完成餐廳的大廳部份, 並為建造的經費禱告。
- 5. 為維修同工Scott一家八口禱告,也求主使他的維修工作使多人蒙恩,在他的事奉中更多經歷神的大能與奇妙。為了配合他們一家八口的需要,我們正在他們住家旁加蓋一件睡房。求主使工程能早日平安完成,並為房子所需三萬元建造經費用禱告。
- 6. 為建築同工Pastor Shull不僅要負責擴建同工的房子,並要著手餐廳的擴建兩大工程禱告,求主加添他的力量。
- 7. 為中心的經費禱告, 求主興起更多有負擔的弟兄姊妹與教會, 一同在禱告與奉獻上支持中心的事工。
- 8. 為八月份短宣的事奉感恩,為各地初信主的弟兄姊妹禱告,求主幫助各地校園同工能有智慧、愛心與恆心去作栽培的工作。

願主賜福您!

主内

高榮德敬上

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Peace in the Lord!

August is a very busy month for CWC coworkers! The Disciple and Coworker training camp and the Bible camp already are keeping our hands very full. For example, I just arrived home from a ten-day short-term mission trip in the early morning of August 27th. I immediately am diving into preparation for the Labor Day Weekend Summer Retreat. Four days after Summer Retreat, another September short-term mission teams will arrive at the Midwest.

Facing the rise and fall of Campus Ministry

Many campuses reported a decline in the Chinese student populations this year, making campus ministry a challenging. Some campus coworkers even think the student ministry has fallen into the very bottom for it seems not too many people come to meetings. Even as they eagerly invite people to the meetings, the turnout is not so good. In May some students coworkers graduated, but new workers are not ready to pick up the ministry yet. Some coworkers unexpected move out. Few students stayed, but they are relatively immature in their spiritual walk and cannot yet serve much. Therefore, older coworkers again found the burden of ministry left on their shoulders. Yet they are already tied up by commitments in family and career, thus going through even more pressure. These older coworkers often lose some hope in the future: as they aged, they doubt their effectiveness as they see an ever-wider generation gap between themselves and the students. As a new school year starts, they can get so discouraged that they wonder if campus or church ministry is something they should further pursue. But they cannot bear to simply give up either. To help with this challenge, below is my sharing:

Neither campus ministry nor church ministry sails smoothly forever. Never be disheartened when you encounter "deep valleys". Be reminded of prophet Habakkuk's words, "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places." (Habakkuk 3:17-19) The prophet felt like he lost everything and reached the worst scenario: he got no harvest from what he planted; he lost cattle and sheep he raised; he was in such a crunch that even his survival was threatened. Yet he taught us how to survive and triumph in such a desperate situation.

1. Jump out from the views of "numbers". Increasing numbers do excite us. Decreasing numbers discourage us. If we fix our gaze on numbers only, our emotions would be easily swayed. We would end up feeling totally dejected if we shift our efforts from a "God-centered" ministry to a "self-centered" one. The prophet learned to move his focus from numbers to God Himself. Likewise, we too will be freed from pressure once we learn to move our focus away from numbers and results. Numbers may be important in the eyes of this world but is not necessarily how our ministries are evaluated by God. For "it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2)

- 2. Turn your eyes to God. Once our vision transcends the circumstance, we are able to see that our glorious God is waiting on us. This is exactly what the prophet shared: "yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation." (Habakkuk 3:18). Salvation begins as we fix our eyes on God. Habakkuk did not experience a circumstantial deliverance. He still had neither animals nor crops. Yet he got over his depression, experiencing a transformation in his inner being from darkness to light. What a salvation that we can rejoice in and wait upon! As the Lord change the prophet's heart, the prophet was revived and drawn to Him. God's enormous power transformed him into a person who rejoices in the Lord, melted by His love. God's salvation begins from our inner being, and then changes happen inside out. Our inner transformation thereby influences others, making others to rejoice in the Lord too.
- 3. Be strengthened by God again. After being transformed by God, the prophet was strengthened and renewed by God's power, withstanding harsh circumstances. In God's encouragement he marched forward and had new found motivation. The prophet said, "GOD, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's." (Habakkuk 3:19) As we look on God and preserve through difficult circumstances, we will soon see the fruits of depending solely on Him.
- 4. Last year a short-term mission team visited a campus in Kentucky. The total number of Chinese students in the whole school should be no more than 200. There was no fellowship or coworkers on campus, so we came to pioneer the gospel outreach. Prior to the evangelistic meeting, the coworkers expected a low turnout. We prayed and committed not to focus on number of people but to be faithful in preaching the gospel. Besides short-term mission team members, only three new undergraduate students showed up that night, and only two remained for the meeting after dinner. None of the two believed in God at the end. Yet, the same two students came for Chinese Bible Study weeks after weeks ever since. This Bible study was led by three Chinese churches in the vicinity. Coworkers from these three churches took turn to drive a roundtrip of approximately 5 hours every week, leading a Bible study for just a handful of students. Praise the Lord! These same two students believed in the Lord in the first semester. They started to invite other students to the Bible study in second semester. This year, as the short-term mission team visited this campus again, we found that there were about 40 people attending the evangelistic meeting, mostly undergraduates. Through God's marvelous work we had four to five new believers that night. We knew that these fruits are really attributable to efforts of the original short-term mission trip plus the faithful services of the coworkers coming from those three Chinese churches. They did not care about the number of attendance and have been helping this campus rain or shine. God remembers their faithful services and as His time came, God for sure revives His work.
- 5. Tread on high places: The prophet also said, "He makes me tread on my high places." Those who trust in the Lord not only overcome difficulties but preserve in victory. They gain momentum and bear increasingly more fruits as time goes by. They tread on high places, higher than all the difficulties. Obstacles exist but do not surround or overwhelm. These people tread on troubles and problems and do so joyfully. These overcomers are farther and farther away from difficulties along their way, advancing higher and higher spiritually towards heaven, and experiencing God more than ever. They are much more able to serve according to God's will and glorify God through their lives and ministry. They bear beautiful fruits which are pleasing to God. In order to "tread on high places", we must reflect whether we are serving in accordance to God's will. Are we doing God's work in God's way? If the answers are affirmative, we should steadfastly depend on God. God will lead us step by step. Number of people may not increase but we for sure will see fruits of our work.

Ever since the September 11 incident in 2001, the U. S. government substantially reduced student visas to avoid infiltration of terrorists. As the number of Chinese students decreased at that time, the number of people attending disciple training camps also declined drastically. In view of that, some coworkers suggested cutting

disciple training camps from three times a year to twice every year. I knew clearly that disciple training camps are crucial in fulfilling the Lord Jesus' Great Commission. As such, we should not scale back on disciple training camps because of number of attendees. No matter many or few, we ought to be faithful in making disciples. I responded to coworkers that despite the drop in attendance, we were to stick to disciple training camps three times a year. When we are faithful to the Lord, He surely will continue to use us and bless us with more students in the future. Praise the Lord! After several years of faithful services without regard to number of attendees, the States experienced an influx of Chinese students starting 2008, again partly due to government actions. As the number of overseas students rapidly increased, we saw a corresponding rise in number of students attending disciple training camp and the Bible camp. Those who determine to wait on the Lord will surely experience His power. Their paths are made straighter and brighter as time goes by.

Once I was asked when the "peak", meaning "culmination", was amidst my several decades of serving the Lord. My answer was that there should be no "peaks" or "valleys" in ministry. No "peaks" as we are constantly being reminded of Apostle Paul's words, "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14) "Peak" is not attained if the goal is not reached. The day we reach the peak should be the day we receive the prize or reward from God. There shall not be any "valleys" in our ministry either. If we look upon and depend on God, "valleys" are meant to be our "Sabbatical year". During this time, God would like us to cut down the services in the eyes of people but to relate with Him intimately in the inner room. He ordains "valleys" to be our quiet time, helping us focus on candidly reflecting ourselves in the presence of God, as well as to equip ourselves for a longer and farther journey or a bigger mission in the future. Never be proud if you believe that you are currently at "peak". Instead, learn to be humble. Don't be discouraged if you believe that you are experiencing a "valley". Quickly learn to trust in Him. Paul had set a beautiful example for us: "I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound." May we hold fast on the Lord Jesus Christ and be His faithful servants whatever may come. As I witnessed the rise and fall of Midwest churches and fellowships in years past, there was always hope if one or two Christians are committed to the Lord, humbly rely on Him, are to faithfully preserve for Him, "tread on high places", influence others, and follow God wholeheartedly. With them, churches and fellowships can continue their journey by faith, and wait for God's next wonderful works with hope.

August and September Short-term Mission Teams: Altogether 37 people from 5 churches at California and Jew Jersey came to the August Short-term missions. Praise the Lord! The weather in this August is the coolest in more than twenty years. With the help of this comfortable climate, short-term mission teams worked harder to share the gospel. It is a great joy to share the gospel on local churches alongside the short-term mission teams, witnessing God's marvelous works everywhere. Although we were told that the number of students declined in many places, the fruit of evangelism has not been reduced comparing to that of previous years. The harvest is still plenty, and God's wonderful works can be seen everywhere. The mission field in the Midwest is big. We pray that the Lord will continue to save souls everywhere.

The September short-term mission teams are actively preparing for their trips. From September 7th, five churches divided into seven teams, will serve alongside us, continuing to share the gospel on local campuses. They will come not only from California but also from Texas. They will travel farther than the previous teams. Besides campuses in "nearby" Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Iowa, they will visit Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. May the Lord increase the strength of local coworkers to win over more souls and train up future coworkers for the Lord

where the gospel is desperately needed. May the spirit of the Lord rise and revive brothers and sisters everywhere to share the gospel with one heart, bear more good fruits, and consolidate local evangelism and caring ministry.

Two August camps: Praise the Lord! About 100 people attended the Bible camp. They not only came to learn the Bible, but also to build their own spiritual lives and regain strength to serve in the new semester. The messages of Pastor and Mrs. David Su helped brothers and sisters to see the beauty and sweetness of God's Word and inspired them to pursue further. Later, more than 60 people attended the following Disciple Training camp. Through Pastor Taneng Chuang's messages, the Lord strengthened brothers and sisters' hearts to love the Lord and be His disciples. Their eyes were opened and enlightened to immense horizons of God's Kingdom. They realized that, for the Kingdom of God they ought to be used by God to a greater degree locally or in faraway mission fields. Sister Grace Lee is herself a living witness of God when she stood among brothers and sisters. From her life and teaching, everyone thirsted more for the Word of God and be more equipped to serve Him.

January Bible Camp: Registration has already started. The purpose of this camp is to teach brothers and sisters the methods and skills of reading the Bible, leading Bible studies, and teaching the Word of God. As a result, they will become faithful stewards of God's Word and hand out spiritual food at the proper time, serving as Bible study group leaders, Sunday school teachers, or Sunday worship preachers in their churches. The Bible camp will take place at CWC from December 30th, 2018 to January 5th, 2019, studying the book of Acts. The speakers are Pastor Chihao Shen and Sister Chao-Luan Kao. Please prepare yourself to attend by registering early and beginning your assignment early. The deadline for registration is November 15th. For more information please visit CWC website.

December Disciple and Coworker Training Camp: This camp will take place at CWC from December 25th to 29th, to equip brothers and sisters to become disciples of Christ and to faithfully serve Him. The speakers are Pastor Tsu-Kung Chuang and Dr. Thomas Leung. The registration is now open. Please visit CWC website for more information.

December Midwest Winter Conference: The purpose of this conference is to bring together brothers and sisters from all over the Midwest to share the gospel with one heart, to lead nonbelievers to Christ, and to pursue the Lord together. After their love for the Lord is rekindled, through them the love of Christ will revive every local church. The speakers are Pastor John Hsu, Pastor Tsu-Kung Chuang, Dr. Thomas Leung, Pastor Jeff Lee, etc. Please pray for this conference and prepare your heart to attend.

Prayer Requests:

- 1. Please pray for the early September short-term mission teams. They will journey further than the August teams. May the Lord give them peace and strength for their race and help them bear more fruits!
- 2. Please pray for Mrs. Ko's health. Please offer prayers and thanks for Pastor and Mrs. Ko's two children as they live and work in California and Nevada. Mrs. Ko is receiving chemotherapy now. May the Lord bestow His presence and healing during the treatment process.
- 3. Please pray for Sister Cindy Chiang's daily and weekly busy administrative work. May the Lord give her strength to arrange the preparations for the three winter meetings. Please pray for her trips to different campuses and sharing the Word of God every weekend.
- 4. Please pray that the dining hall expansion will be mostly finished before the December meetings. Please also pray for the funds needed.

- 5. Please pray for our maintenance coworker Scott and his family of eight. May the Lord use his services to bless more people. Pray that he will more and more experience God's marvelous power at his work. To meet their needs, we are adding a bedroom to their residence. May the Lord help us to finish it soon and well. Please pray for the needed construction expenses of \$30,000.
- 6. Construction coworker Pastor Shull is not only building this extra bedroom but also continuing the dining hall expansion. Please pray that the Lord add his strength.
- 7. Please pray for the funding of CWC. May the Lord raise more brothers and sisters as well as churches to support CWC ministry and help with prayers and offerings.
- 8. Please give thanks for August short-term mission teams. Please pray for new believers on local campuses. May the Lord help campus coworkers to build them up with wisdom, love, and perseverance.

May the Lord bless you!

In the Lord,

Pastor Billy Ko