

MISSIONS FOCUS

From bulletin: November 20, 2022

Our Missionaries, their health and ministries affected by Covid-19

Chinese Bible Mission (CBM Asia plus US domestic ministries)

From today's bulletin / Missions Report from Missions Team

CBM hosted a children's day camp during the Chinese New Year break in Taiwan. It was a great experience for both the volunteers from the church and the local children. One camper who was invited by a classmate whose family attends their church plant was noticeably hostile to the Christian message at first. By the end of the camp, she had softened her demeanor and she and her sister even visited Sunday School a few weeks after the camp. On the last day of camp, all 14 children opened their hearts to accept Jesus. CBM planted its first church in Asia 3 years ago. The church is now completely financially self-sufficient with many leaders within the church able to preach and teach. It has expanded to 2 locations with the one near the university district having a weekly attendance of 40-60, reaching the maximum number they can safely accommodate. The church itself has also started to fund other church plants. The CBM staff is hoping to expand outreach to the more remote minority groups.

This past semester, Rev. Albert Y taught two online classes with a total of 121 students. The classes were Pastoral Counseling and Marriage and Family. Starting in July, he will be teaching another class on Marriage and Family followed by a Parenting class. Please continue to uplift in prayer this teaching and training ministry in Asia. Pray that God will bring the people to be trained as future faithful leaders and that the students will be protected whenever they are online.

To read PDF's of their Spring and Fall 2022 newsletters, continue reading below. Copies available in the MC Lobby!

Thank you for reading about and praying for our missionaries, countries and people locally and globally!



We're thankful that we were able to have an online camp in 2020 and a hybrid camp in 2021, but nothing can compare to seeing everyone's smiling faces in person!



By Tim Wong

raise the Lord that we celebrated the 64th year of CBM Camp this summer! We're thankful that we were able to have an online camp in 2020 and a hybrid camp in 2021, but nothing can compare to seeing everyone's smiling faces in person! It was great to resume our traditional format of a week-long camp specifically designed to serve ...

(Continued on page 6)

Taiwan: God's Blessings

The church plant CBM helped start 3 years ago has become self-sustaining and is currently looking to find two church planters to start churches with the ethnic minorities within China.



By Peter Wang

fter almost 3 years away from the USA, we will finally be making a trip back to the Bay Area to visit friends and families during the upcoming Christmas season!! While we look forward to seeing you and opportunities have moved to online platforms. Yet, there are ministries that demand personal interactions – as I look back, our long-time trusted Asian staff were divinely connected to work with us through serendipitous personal meetings.

Thus, although we have not been able to physically enter China, and we see many agencies and missionaries leaving due to the difficult conditions within, God continues to surprise us with his gracious hands. Through CBM, two Chinese ex-



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sharing our stories with you in person, it was quite a surprise when I started to book flights to find that the cost of travel has almost doubled. The days of sub-\$700 flights to Asia are over with rising energy costs, and price-shock was abundant according to our friends who had traveled back to the US during the summer.

While I lament the end of those good old days when I was traveling to China preaching and teaching regularly, I am reminded that now these teaching pat families were commissioned back to their home to start church planting work.

The church plant CBM helped start 3 years ago has become self-sustaining and is currently looking to find two church planters to start churches with the ethnic minorities within China. However, to find the right partners, our staff in China had to make a trip in August to visit some potential candidates. If you know anything about traveling in China right now – it is extremely difficult – with the pos-

sibility of quarantine lock-down for an entire city or even a district of a city (we are talking about millions of people sometimes) with a day's notice. Your movement is always tracked and you must travel with an electronic health passport. And even today, some places require a Covid test every 48 hours. Our staff had to cut short his visit to one city because he sensed that it might be shut down - and he left 2 hours before it did shut down for the next 14 days. While on the train leaving this city to go into quar-



antine, he called me and shared that as Western agencies have started to leave, it has left much collateral damage among their local staff who were unable to leave as foreigners. Our strategy for China has never been about a particular program or resource injection, but a slow mentoring / consulting and walking with a few faithful local leaders as they respond to God's calling in their life, and I believe it is bearing fruit during this chaotic time. And as we move forward, I sense the precious opportunities for CBM to continue the work of oth-



ers who started but could not finish.

By the end of 2022, there will be 7 churches planted with your support to CBM! Most of them I have yet to visit, but I look forward to the day when I can travel freely and fellowship with our leaders inside. Until then, I hope to share many more stories with our supporters and partners back in the States during Christmas time and in January 2023. \$\Pi\$

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Images: (Center) Linkou Church – Moved into a new facility one month ago (Top) Taiwan earthquake a few days ago (Bottom) Winter English Camp

CBM Middle School Camp Staff Sharing

This summer we celebrated the 64th year of CBM Camp. The past few years due to the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic were not able to have the normal youth camp ministry. But Praise to God, we were able to have the regular two weeks of Middle School and Senior High camp. Next issue: Senior High Camp

By Josiah Lay Middle school Camp Director



Josiah, second from left with fellow MS directors

Returning back to something you've been away from for a long time can often lead to unexpected, unplanned, and challenging encounters. Yet, where we might experience weakness or even failure, there

rounding this question, one of the most challenging to address was what I imagined should have been the perfect results of serving in this role: knowing the right answer to every question, making the optimal decision for every situation, speaking the wisest words in every interaction-as I was quickly humbled by the realization that I could not. So therein laid a very necessary shift in focus and reliance from my own ability to execute, over instead to God's knowledge, guidance, and intervention by scripture and spirit:



2 Corinthians 4:7 "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."

is greater room for God to work. I had many opportunities to witness and learn this throughout CBM camp, and substantially so within my own experience serving.

As a first-time director with only one year of experience counseling previously, I often paused to wonder why God opened this door to serve, placing me on this team. Surely there would be others more qualified by CBM tenure, familiarity with procedure, and counseling expertise than I? Of the many facets sur-

greater trust in a greater God, working in and through broken efforts to accomplish His work.

This critical perspective not only helped guide my time at camp, but carries on as a reminder in many aspects of life. Limited efforts and challenging circumstances must point us further towards the strength of the Lord. So wherever we are, despite what shortcomings we may find even in our best offerings of service, we can surrender the outcome to Him! Φ



By Janelle Ching (Long time Counselor & Nurse)

BM camp never fails to be a blessing not only

to the campers, but also to the staff. Despite having counseled multiple times before, I was reminded yet again of God's faithfulness and was in awe of the numerous ways that He works everything out according to His plan. This year was the return to the "normal" two weeks of camp after online and combined camp



God's Blessing Camp Counselor Sharing



By Harrison Pana-Hong First time counselor

came into camp this year expecting tiring and long days but left camp feeling like it only lasted a moment. Being my first year counseling I was a little nervous especially knowing that I would be serving in both middle and high

school camp, but through prayer and trusting in the Lord it was a lot less scary than I thought it would be. There have been so many opportunities for me to learn, whether it be from the various messages or from the counsel that I'm giving to my campers. A big reminder that I took away from camp

A big reminder that I took away from camp this year was remembering that nothing is my own work, but God using me to spread His word to these younger believers in the faith.



this year was remembering that nothing is my own work, but God using me to spread His word to these younger believers in the faith. I was so encouraged to see everyone who went up and spoke at campfire about the various things that they have learned at camp, how God has been working in their lives, and how God has used struggles in their lives to help them grow in their relationship with Him. Overall this first year as a counselor has been great and I am so excited to serve at CBM camp again in the future! \P



vears. In the face of new challenges and overall fewer counselors this year, I was encouraged by the ways in which the counselors navigated the week(s) prayerfully, trusting in God's provision. It was another great year of camp where God was glorified and worshipped, the campers were challenged to live out the gospel in their lives, and many were drawn closer to Him. I pray that the campers will continue to seek God throughout the year and continue to grow in love for God and others. ₽



USA Update

(Continued from Page 1) our middle school and high school students respectively. Our theme this year was "Mission: Possible", focused on the mission God has entrusted each of us. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." Romans 1:16-17. We're blessed, encouraged. and challenged by our speakers and numerous workshop teachers. On a personal note, it was great to see my older son serving as a camp counselor - the third generation serving CBM Camp; my parents would have been so delighted.

Thank you for your prayer about the campsite acquisition. Things are moving at a molasses pace, but I know God's time is always best. But the team continues to seek first His Will and work diligently to handle the challenges along the way. I'm personally encouraged by the renewed connection of supporters who willingly offer their expertise and assistance in the process. Please continue to pray for all parties involved, including the campsite's board of directors and real estate agent, that we may move forward in one spirit and be obedient to God's leading. &

Asia: Sustaining Local Pastors

...there are some common pressure amongst China local pastors. Two glaring reasons are lack of financial and moral support. As I wrote in my last newsletter that most of my pastoral students can't even afford to buy the text books that were assigned for my class



By Albert Yip

ne of the buzzwords these days is "Quiet Quitting". Gallup

finds that "Quiet quitters" make up at least 50% of the U.S. workforce. "Quiet quitting" is the idea that is spreading virally on social media that millions of people are not going above and beyond at work and just meeting their job description.

Unlike the workforce survey by Gallup, pastors in the United States are quitting or are thinking of quitting at an alarming rate. According to a survey conducted last summer by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research at Hartford International University, 37% of the clergy had "seriously considered leaving pastoral ministry" at least once during the preceding year, and 67% had thought at least once during that time that it was the hardest year of their ministry ex-

perience. Likewise, Barna Group, a research firm that focuses on religion, found in fall 2021 that 38% of pastors had considered quitting full-time ministry within the past year, up 9 percentage points from January 2021."

Apostle Paul mentioned his struggle in 2 Corinthians 11:28 (ESV) "And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches." Every pastor's reason for quitting is unique. Having said that, there is some common pressure among China local pastors. Two glaring reasons are the lack of financial and moral support. As I wrote in my last newsletter that most of my pastoral students can't even afford to buy the textbooks that were assigned for my classes. They may have the abilities, talents, and unquestionable motivations, however, a great majority of them will find themselves leaving their full-time ministries.

Though the need for pastors in China remains substantial, the

Though the need for pastors in China remains substantial, the support for them does not reflect it. This is where I believe that CBM is playing an important role in these newly trained pastors



support for them does not reflect it. This is where I believe that CBM is playing an important role in these newly trained pastors. CBM's goal is not only to train new pastors but also to assist them to plant a healthy and striving church. CBM planted a church in June of 2018 by installing a local pastor, providing him with training, proper financial compensation, and regular fellowship. Today this church is striving and on the verge of planting new sister churches and expanding its networks.

Theological training is the first step, we then follow up with tangible support to help them flourish in a very fragile environment. CBM provides financial aid, mentoring, and supervision for pastors. Presently, besides my teaching assignments, I am leading a network of 7 pastors. We meet monthly as a group for three hours for prayers, encouragement, and instruction. In addition, I meet with local pastors individually as and when the need arises.

I am also thankful for you, a fellow partner in Christ. With your help, we will continue to train and mentor more pastors

On a personal note - I was teaching a class of 70 students last week at 6 in the morning. It was the same week when the temperature spiked up to 116 degrees. Blocks of homes south of us already lost their electrical power. I then warned my students that there may be a likelihood that I may also lose power. I am thankful that the four-hour "Zoom" class went on without stoppage. Even in this little weather event, I have experienced God's provision and encouragement. I am also thankful for you, a fellow partner in Christ. With your help, we will continue to train and mentor more pastors. I would love to answer any questions that you may have regarding our ministry in China (albertyip@cbmglobal.org). \Phi

Upcoming Events

STM-Taiwan



STM Taiwan

Junior Hi Camp



Junior High Camp 2023 Senior Hi Camp



Senior High Camp 2023

More

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CBM

HOT ISSUE

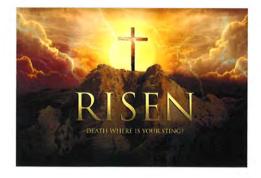
01 | Easter - He is Risen

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A | USA Update

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30



By Tim Wong

aving just celebrated Easter this past Sunday reminded me of the significance of Christ's Resurrection that is central to our faith. What great joy to worship a Living Savior who sits at the right hand of God! As I reflected on the last words of Jesus on the cross, Tetelestai or "It is Finished" (John 19:30) stood out to me. It was...

(Continued on insert A)

Taiwan: **God's Blessings**

We hosted a children's day-camp during the Chinese New Year break, and it was a great experience for both the volunteers from church and the local children themselves.



By Peter Wang

s many of our faithful CBM followers have read from me over the last few years - highlighting the growing tension between China and Taiwan, and warning us that a time of instability and the breakdown of

wan is indeed invaded like Ukraine? In many ways, we should live our daily lives with the same kind of urgency and perspective, being reminded that the peace and prosperity on this earth was never meant to last forever. It is with that sober reminder that we continue to serve here in Taiwan, and ask that you continue to pray and support our missionaries and partners all over Asia.

CBM Taiwan Ministry:

YouTube Link: https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=7OtC2FHYptU

"Who has heard Jesus knocking on the door to your heart and has invited him in?", and with every head bowed, all 14 kids raised their hands!

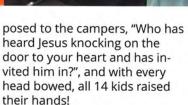
the institutions /rule of law that has been set in place since WWII and kept up with the power of the United States is coming to an end. But never would I expect to see this breakdown coming at such speed with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

We pray for those suffering because of the war and for local Christians who will act courageously in these uncertain times to help their neighbors. At the same time, I am asking myself the same question - what if Tai-

We hosted a children's daycamp during the Chinese New Year break, and it was a great experience for both the volunteers from church and the local children themselves. One camper, who was invited by a classmate whose family attends our church plant, was noticeably hostile to the Christian message at first, but by the end of camp had softened her demeanor. She and her sister even visited Sunday School a few weeks after the camp. On the last day of camp, there was a question

heard Jesus knocking on the door to your heart and has invited him in?", and with every head bowed, all 14 kids raised their hands!

Linkou Church Plant: When we got back to physical worship, we started with about 25 people in Nov. 2021. Now, we have max out (60-70 people on Sunday) our CBM office space and might be moving to a larger facility sometime during the summer! Please pray that the portable



sound system will be coming in soon so we can move things forward.

China Ministry: CBM planted its first church in China three years ago, and it is now completely financially self-sufficient, with many leaders within the church to preach and teach. It has expanded to 2 locations with one near the university district and has 40-60 attendees weekly (about the max we can have safely). The church itself has also



started to fund other church plants, and our CBM staff is hoping to lead outreach to the minorities in Yunnan and Xinjiang. We are currently recruiting prayer & financial partners to be the "Angel Investors" for these two church plants! If this might be a project God has placed on your heart, please donate to the "China Ministry" category! &

CBM planted its first church in China three years ago, and it is now completely financially self-sufficient, with many leaders within the church to preach and teach.



mages: (Center) Linkou Church Worship, (Top) Linkou Church – Children's Day Camp Bible lesson, (Bottom) Linkou Children's Day Camp craft time



USA Update

(Continued from Page 1) one of Pastor Sen's favorite passages and he often spoke of the complete work of Jesus by quoting this verse. Jesus himself declared, "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do" (John 17:4). Hallelujah, HE is risen indeed!

Mark your calendar! We're excited and looking forward to this summer's camp ministry! Praise the Lord that we will resume the separate week-long program dedicated to middle school and high school students at Mt. Hope Bible Campground — July 25-30 for middle school camp, and August 1-6 for high school camp.

Please continue to pray for God's hand and direction in acquiring our own campground. There are many details involved in acquisition and operation, and we thank the Lord for raising up a camp acquistion team comprised of ministry, business, and real estate consultants who not only have vast knowledge and experience of this type of work but also great faith in God's sovereignty and provision. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and support. &

Asia: Leadership Training

Amazingly, more than 90 people showed up on the first day of class! Again, the hunger for truth is an inspiration to me to carry on the mission work from the traditional mission model to the "internet" model.



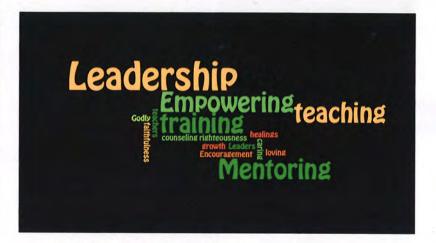
t is with a heavy and discordant heart that I am writing this newsletter. I am saddened by the displace-

ment of families and deaths of innocent people in Ukraine because of the unprovoked war by Russia. We once again witness the sufferings of humanity over the cause of history because of certain political agenda. There is really no proper transition or commentary to justify my updating of my mission work at this time, except to point out a new development for your prayerful consideration.

On March 2, I started a new "Marriage and Family" class. As I logged in to my teaching app, I noticed that I am only able to see their names but not their faces. I later found out that China's new internet regulations went into effect on March 1, laying out broad restrictions on religious communication, teach-

ing, and evangelism. The new rules perhaps have caused some people to conceal their identities. Amazingly, more than 90 people showed up on the first day of class! Again, the hunger for truth is an inspiration to me to carry on the mission work from the traditional mission model to the "internet" model.

The new regulations were announced at the end of last year by China's State Administration of Religious Affairs (SARA) and allow only religious groups with government approval to share information on the internet. According to the new Measures on the Administration of Internet Religious Information Services: Organizations and individuals must not proselytize online and must not carry out religious education or training, publish preaching, or repost or link to related content; must not organize the carrying out of religious activities online; and must not broadcast religious rites ... through means such as text, imThe biggest
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ages, audio, or video either live or in recordings.

On February 28, the Chinese government issued a press release answering questions about the new regulation and saying that the government "will have close and thorough cooperation to ensure the implementation of the measures." (CT Asia)

Mission work in religiously persecuted countries has always been a challenge. At the beginning of my mission work, I have to learn how to navigate through many different physical restraints. Then came the Pandemic. The biggest challenge for me from the pandemic is the elimination of face-to-face interaction with my students. To me, it was vital in the counseling training program. However, over the past two years, I have accepted the "New Norm" of instruction and became an "Internet Missionary".

With this internet new regulation in place, please pray that I am still able to continue in this new mission field in a more effective manner.

Having said that, the pandemic has increased the time I have to communicate on the internet in different time zones and cities at the same time. I will continue to teach, encourage and mentor more leaders until I am blocked or the platforms are no longer available.

With this internet new regulation in place, please pray that I am still able to continue in this new mission field in a more effective manner. I have scheduled a new semester next month in another city, where the persecution is known to be more zealous. Pray that God will bring the people to be trained as future faithful leaders and please pray that the students will be protected whenever they are "online". Φ

Upcoming Events

Junior Hi Camp



Junior High Camp July 25-30, 2022 Senior Hi Camp



Senior High Camp August 1-6, 2022 STM-Taiwan



STM Taiwan Summer 2023

More

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