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CHINESE BIBLE CHURCH
灣區華人聖經教會

MISSIONS FOCUS

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

Kingdom Rice, Steve Hong (Bay Area, CA)

From today's bulletin / Missions Report from Missions Team

Kingdom Rice (Bay Area, CA) – Steve Hong shared the following in a recent newsletter. The movie *“Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings”* features an elaborate fight scene on a San Francisco city bus. That’s not just any random bus line; that line (the 1 line) and the one it replaced (the 55 line) represents years of advocacy for Chinese people. It was the line that connected “Old” Chinatown, where Chinese were “trapped” for decades to “New” Chinatown, the first neighborhood where Chinese settled en masse outside of Chinatown post 1965. Together, these neighborhoods and even the bus lines reveal aspects of God’s glory, help prepare us for our globalizing world, and offer calls to action for you and me.

New Chinatown, Chinatown, and San Francisco uniquely reveal God’s glory. Psalm 48:12 specifically invites us to walk around and see God in the city. I’ve led both Christian and non-Christian communities doing this very thing, including interfaith bike rides that incorporated a liturgy to honor their historical stories and sacred space buildings. Whether the participants shared my faith or not (*because love doesn’t mean I have to agree, right?*), honoring their stories actually opened up opportunities for hundreds to hear my faith story. I grieve that white flight narratives have taught people to be scared of cities like San Francisco. This is contrary to how God sees cities and our call to seek its peace.

Christians are called to engage our neighbors. Cities play a large part at Kingdom Rice because they are a laboratory for training disciples. This is why neighborhood storytelling is a large part of our work. Last month, I partnered with a pastor to immerse his group into New Chinatown, learning its history and how to better engage this pan-ethnic hood in the Spirit.

How to reach Kingdom Rice:

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

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From some of the KR newsletters:

December 2023

Holiday music invites participation. Music joins people together and invites them to participate. This facilitates the work of the Spirit, joining people together from all backgrounds and ethnicities.

Music invites us to love our neighbor, spur fellow Christians and deepen our quest to follow Christ in every circumstance, in every note of life and co-create with God.

October 2023

1. Exploring music and spiritual direction
2. Updating Kingdom Rice Fundraising Book – Steve’s book is considered one of the only books to overcome the social identification dilemma of saving face and cultural shame.
3. “Learning to love listening” – KR Spiritual director training. Steve has found himself learning to discern our “actual” God we believe in—not just the God “in our heads.” He has a YouTube video, “Erasing Shame-AAPI Mental Health.” Shame is found in all cultures, not just Asian ones.

September 2023

HOME (belonging) – Restoration – Embrace

Discovering what that could mean and how it could impact communities was an exciting opportunity to dream and envision among KR cohorts.

August 2023

Steve reflects on his zigzag journey from a well-paying engineering job in the Silicon Valley to following the desires God had placed in his heart and the various ways God has used to bring him to his present-day ministries and activities. It’s been 30 years since he started this journey!

“Perhaps the most unexpected zigzag within 10 years of training was my stint refinishing floors and generating commercial sales for a company that embodied Kingdom values more than any organization I’d worked for. This was harder for my father to accept than leaving engineering in the first place. Yet no company more greatly influenced how I lead KR and honor those closest to the organization.

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Looking back, learning to lay down ministry for this season was key for the long-haul.

God led the Israelites through a 40-year zigzag path through the desert because though they had left Egypt, it was still on their hearts. God led me on this 30-year zigzag journey because the demands, non-stop work ethics of my Egypt (engineering) were still in my heart.

Thank you for partnering and reading!

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