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South Africa Prayer letter (2/2017)

Dear Prayer Partners,

God gave us three new Christians! They all came to know the Lord in different ways, but all because of Christian love and prayer intercessions.

Sister Ku's sister has been evangelizing to her since she became a Christian more than 10 years ago. The one who led her to Christ is also Sister Ku's friend, and together they have been praying for her salvation. However, Sister Ku had been a devoted Buddhist and attended all the activities of the local Buddhist temple. She even purchased a very expensive idol from Taiwan and worshiped it at her home. Whenever we chatted with her, we were not able to touch on the gospel because she would very politely but firmly reject it. Even though she was blinded, God never gave up on her! The Lord let her experience His power and mercy. About two years ago, her daughter developed a depletion of blood platelets. The medication did not seem to help, and she even needed to stay in the hospital for a spinal puncture. It was draining for the whole family both physically and emotionally. At one point, the blood platelets count was down to single digit. Last December, her daughter had to do another blood test to determine if she needed to go to the hospital again. At that point, Sister Ku's heart was finally open to the Lord and cried out to Him for help. God answered her prayer! The result was good enough for her not to go through another spinal puncture. (Her blood platelets count has since been steady within the normal range.) She immediately told her sister and wanted to become a Christian and get rid of her idol. That day, together with some church leaders, her sister and their friend, we went to her home to remove her idol and pray for her house and factory. When she prayed to accept Christ, her tears kept running down her face. We were truly in awe and praised God!

Sister Zhang first came to South Africa from China for employment. Later she was able to start her own manufacturing factory. Some of her friends had taken her to the Buddhist temple before, but she did not understand what she was doing. She just thought that any god is better than no god. A few months ago, she got really sick. She did not speak much English and did not know where to find the right doctor. One of the new Christians, Sister Ding, in our church knew of her situation. She took the time to help her find the right doctor and accompanied her to all doctor visits to translate for her. She also constantly encouraged her, comforted her, prayed for her and told her to rely on Jesus. After her operation, our sister invited her to church. Afterwards, we had a chance to share the gospel with her when we visited her in her factory. She accepted Christ right away.

Sister Zhang's friend, Sister Hau, also accepted Christ with her. Sister Hau also came from China; we actually met her before in another city. She was also invited by Sister Ding to come to church. She used to live in a very unsafe flat, and her place had been broken in a few times. She was so afraid at night that she was not able to sleep at all. We prayed together for her and asked for God's protection. Within a week, she and her husband found a shop space with living quarters behind the shop. The rent is not too much more than what they used to pay plus she now has a shop to make a living. The way God solved her problem was way beyond what we could think of asking! She is full of joy, and we are again truly amazed by God's wondrous grace!

As a result, we added two new Basic Christianity classes for the new Christians (one for Sister Ku, another one for Sister Zhang and Sister Hau). Please pray for them as faith can only grow on a solid truth foundation. Please continue to pray for the on-going class for the recently baptized Christians that they may grow in knowledge and love. We also started different classes to train those whom we believe have the heart and potential to serve. Please pray for them as well.

Praise the Lord! In the past two months, we were able to get acquainted with the brothers and sisters of the Cape Town church. In addition to the regular Bible study on Wednesday night, this month we began a second Bible study on Sunday night in the southern part of the city (Claremont). May God give us more opportunities to assess the needs in Cape Town and know how He wants us to serve in this community.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for the three new Christians that the Lord will strengthen their faith through the study of His truth.
2. Please pray for all the different classes that brothers and sisters are eager to learn and obey.
3. Please continue to pray for the new ministry in Cape Town that we may be useful to the Lord in helping Christians to stand firm in their faith as well as outreaching to others in the Chinese community.
4. Please pray for the seekers in all the churches. May the Lord soften their hearts to understand their need for salvation.
5. Please continue to pray for our safety as we travel to different cities and towns.

In His service,
Ko-Ta & Christina