



## South Africa Christina & Ko-Ta Jen Prayer Letter February 2018

Dear Prayer Partners,

December was a busy month. About three months before Christmas, Christina had started preparation for the children's performance for our Christmas celebration in Durban. From picking songs, learning the Chinese lyrics, to dancing with challenging moves, every Sunday the children were cooperating and practicing diligently. Due to our regular absence, some parents would take over the practice sessions while we were away. Christmas was on Monday. The Chinese wholesale center in Durban had a three-day break so brothers and sisters were able to come to the Christmas celebration. There were around 70 people in attendance. The children's performance was a great success, and the children reaped the joy of serving God!

After Durban's Christmas celebration, we flew to Cape Town for a four-day-three-night family retreat held in Paarl. The theme was "The Abundant Life." Pastor Liu used passages from the Gospel of John and I John to lead everyone through "knowing the origin of life," "the life of following Christ" and "living the abundant life." We also showed two movies that corresponded with the main theme. The first one was "Simon Birch" which emphasized the real meaning and value of life. The other one was "The Shack" which depicted God's unfailing love for us even in times of crisis.

In addition, we had two workshops. One workshop was on parenting. Ko-Ta explained the underlying motives and thinking patterns of children for parents to respond with correct parenting tactics. The other workshop was on family health. Brother Huang is a practicing GP doctor in South Africa. He detailed the medical system in South Africa, how to choose family insurance as well as daily prevention and emergency procedures. It was well received as there were so many important and helpful information for every family.

The last night was New Year Eve. We had a barbeque and great sharing time. Everyone felt the closeness in Christ! A family just joined our church, and the husband was very quiet. Through this retreat we discovered that he actually was very open and enjoyed fellowship with other Christians. A sister's brother just arrived in South Africa three days before the retreat. He was impressed with the warmth and love in Christ's family. He continues to come to church after the retreat. Last Sunday before church, Ko-Ta had the chance to evangelize to him through explaining the Holy Communion. Praise the Lord; he was very willing to further understand what Christianity is about. Please pray for Mr. Zhou's salvation.

There is a serious drought in the West Cape Province. At this moment, Cape Town is under Level 6 water restriction. That means everyone is allowed a daily water consumption of 50 liters. Cape Town has already started the countdown to Day Zero (at present, it is set in the middle of April). From that day on, everyone can only get 25 liters of water per day from one of the 200 water stations. That will certainly create tensions on Cape Town's people, its economy as well as law and order. It may also affect the ministry of the Cape Town church. We will have to wait and see.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for rain in Cape Town.
2. Please pray for Mr. Zhou so he would not just analyze Christianity but knowing his need to repent of his sins to be saved.
3. Please continue to pray for the ministry in Cape Town. We are planning to start a second Bible study group on the north side of town.
4. Please continue to pray for our safety as we travel to different cities and towns.

In His service,  
Ko-Ta & Christina