

Voices of the Movement

The World Christian Fellowship Newsletter



January – February 2009

**Following God's Lead
(Christians in Medicine)**
page 2

Caring for Missionaries on the Field Part 2
page 5

WCF Prayer Groups, LA Update
page 3

**WCC 2009 Workshops Overview
Special Message to Pastors**
page 4

**WCF Newsletter News
WCC 25th Anniversary in 2010**
page 6

Suburb of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD

by Teresa H. C.

In this article, founder Teresa H. C. reflects on the beginnings of Christians in Medicine, a fellowship for medical and dentistry professionals located in the heart of Silicon Valley. She is awed by how God chooses to work through people, despite their frailties and limitations.



Christians in Medicine gathering

It always amazes me to see how God works through us despite our inadequacies and frailties. As I reflect on how our group, Christians in Medicine, started, I am in awe of God's sovereignty and how He prepares us for His work.

Spiritually parched ◊ As a first year medical resident fresh out of medical school, I was acutely aware of my lack of clinical experience and eagerly awaiting guidance from my senior residents and faculty. With the busy call schedules and time demands of the training, I found myself struggling to get to church on Sundays and would be lucky if I could attend once in a three month period. I yearned for fellowship with other Christians and was hoping there might even be a Christian medical group in the area that was meeting on a regular basis. Being in the heart of Silicon Valley, with multiple large and small medical training centers in the area, I thought surely there would be some medically related fellowship group available. Yet, after a year of training, I did not find one, and felt spiritually parched.

Like-mindedness ◊ During medical school I was blessed to have a strong fellowship group at church and even a small Christian medical student group that would meet once a month for fellowship with medical students at my school. Even though our group was small, we had a common bond and it was encouraging to know who the other Christians were in our class and other classes. Perhaps one of the most influential aspects of this group was the opportunity to interact with and know which of our professors and attendings (clinical professors overseeing residents) were Christian. It gave me the opportunity to see Christians in the medical profession practice in a way that was pleasing to God. We could discuss the moral and ethical issues – that

often come up – in the medical profession from a Christian perspective.

Courage to invite ◊ So as the first year of training was drawing to a close, God placed a burden upon my heart to have a prayer and worship night. My heart pounded as I prepared the flyers for the meeting, which I distributed in the mailboxes of each resident and posted on the information board. Up to that day, I was not aware of any other Christians in our entire residency program and knew of only one attending who was active in his church. I did not know what response I would receive, but I committed the evening to the Lord and said that even if I was the only one there, I would pray and worship Him during that time.

Fanning the flames ◊ God proceeded to work in an amazing way and that night we had six people meet to pray for all the members of the residency program, the incoming first year residents, attendings, and our patients. I found out that another resident in my year was also a Christian and that there was more than one attending who was Christian at our program.

The following month, I was encouraged further to see that God had brought in more than double the number of Christians in the new first year class compared to my class. As we continued to meet on a monthly basis, God brought more and more Christians to the group such that we had multiple medical professionals from all levels of training, medical students to attendings and clinicians in the community.

...continued on page 5



Fellowshipping over a meal

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” **Matt. 5:13**

PRAYER: THE FUEL OF THE MOVEMENT

Prayer for WCF Sign up to receive regular prayer updates for the World Christian Fellowship via e-mail. If you are interested please e-mail Julie S. at prayer@wcfellowship.org.

REGIONAL WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUPS

The prayer groups listed below meet monthly. For more information on meeting times and locations, watch for e-mail announcements from the group coordinators. Alternatively, you may e-mail prayer@wcfellowship.org, or visit wcfellowship.org

- **L.A. (Temple City, CA)** • **Seattle (Tukwila, WA)** • **Fremont/South Bay (Fremont, CA)**
- **S.F. Monthly Missions Meeting (MMM) (San Francisco, CA)**

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer *is* the greater work.” – Oswald Chambers

LA PRAYER GROUP UPDATES

by Kevin L.



Southern California beach view (Crystal Cove State Park)

Los Angeles ◦ We are thankful to God for everyone who came to the WCF LA prayer fellowship in recent months.

People group focus ◦ In December, when we didn't have a guest speaker we prayed for the Hui people in China. As a non-literate in Mandarin, I learned from online research on the Hui people that the word (character) for Hui itself means Muslim. The people are said to be descended from the Arabians and the Persians who had entered into China as merchants from the 7th century to the 19th century.

As with reaching out to other Muslims, we hope that the Hui people also would hear from God in their hearts and their minds of God's love and salvation to them through Jesus Christ. We believe also that we need to pray against the evil powers in the spiritual realm for the Hui people to be released from bondage.

Peer support ◦ In the January meeting, we also prayed for one another. We hope prayer meetings like this one will allow us to reflect and enjoy fellowship as well as to pray for personal needs. In previous months we were also enriched by guest speakers from Cameroon and Nepal, who are Great Commission workers to people in their countries.



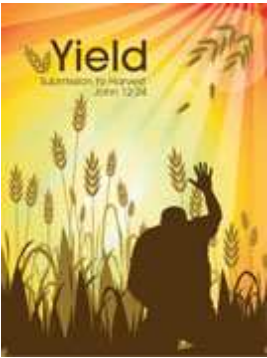
Additional facts about the Hui people group

- The Hui are the largest Muslim ethnic group living in China with an official population of over 10 million.
- There are Hui communities in almost every city and county of China, often segregated from the majority Han people.
- The Hui have lost most of their ancestral languages and now speak Mandarin Chinese or a regional local dialect, but have retained their original religion of Islam.
- The ancestors of Hui include traders coming from the Silk Road and Arab soldiers who traveled to China in the 8th century A.D.; and Turks, Arabs, and Persians who intermarried with them (descendants of the traders and soldiers) in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Adapted from *Bridges & Barriers for the Hui to receive Christ prayer guide*.

WCC 2009 WORKSHOPS OVERVIEW

by Wilson C.



Yield. Submission to Harvest.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the workshops at this year's WCC are tracking closely to the conference theme of yielding to God through submission and anticipating his global harvest. In addition to the plenary messages, 10 workshops offer specific focus on areas that are mission critical, culturally appropriate, or time sensitive to our generation. Key areas include financial stewardship, living in our true identity, releasing familial hindrances in order to serve freely, de-romanticizing missions, exploring gender-related issues, responding to tragedy, suffering, and natural disasters, and increasing the effectiveness of reaching out to Muslims, the wounded, and the poor.

Another common thread that weaves the workshops together is the prayers of the speakers for more than just "knowledge transfer" through sharing their personal vulnerabilities, testimonies, and success and failures. They, along with all of WCF leadership, pray that there will be a re-igniting of passions for Christ and what He cares about; convictions and encouragement upon the conferees as God desires; and minds and hearts that will be challenged and moved to faith and good deeds.

Personally, it has been an amazing privilege to witness how God brought these different speakers to WCC who are faithful lovers and humble servants of the Lord. I was blessed to be able to talk with them during the preparation process and encounter the raw, genuine testimonies of their journey with laughter and struggles, sacrifices and rewards from the Lord.



M. Rickett

Yield. Submission to Harvest: John 12:24

World Christian Conference – February 13 - 16, 2009: wcfellowship.org/wcc

WCC 2009 plenary and workshop speakers



S. Huynh



The Poccas



K. Sid



S. Stiles



C. Jang



J. Goduci



J. Smyer



The Miyakes

MESSAGE TO PASTORS FROM WCC CONFERENCE CHAIR

by Teresa C.


Greetings to Pastors and Church Ministers!

As an organization, World Christian Fellowship (WCF) values the local church and its leaders who shepherd their flocks so faithfully. We believe the Great Commission (Mt 28: 18-20) is for all believers and this cannot be accomplished alone. We count it a privilege and a joy to have opportunities to partner with local churches to reach the lost and disciple nations, whether that's just in our own backyards or halfway around the world.

This year at World Christian Conference (WCC) 2009, we are happy to offer a special time when we welcome pastors to come and see what the Lord has been doing in WCC and WCF and to share in some of their members' experiences to bring back to their local congregations. It is our hope that we may come alongside shepherds of local flocks during this strategic and challenging time in our world. We want to team

together to bring hope through our message of salvation to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the world.

We know your time is valuable, so for those who have signed up to join the special one day event for pastors and church ministers at WCC, we are looking forward to meeting you. We hope that you will be able to experience the worship, teachings, workshops, and a time to meet with various WCF leadership. We hope to get better acquainted with each other and learn how WCF might serve your congregation's needs to reach the lost.

For those who won't be able to join us at WCC this year, we want to extend a general invitation of partnership. At WCF, we want to complement and enhance your ministries and so we welcome any opportunity in the future to begin to build a relationship with you. Please contact us at info@wcfellowship.org 

CARING FOR MISSIONARIES ON THE FIELD PART 2

By Carol M.

Believing that there is a lack of information on how to care for missionaries, Carol M. continues her explanation of stressors missionaries are likely to encounter on the field. By increasing one's awareness of these types of stressors, "senders" can more effectively care for missionaries and "goers" can better understand their own needs.

Review from the December 2008 issue...

"CHOPS" ♦ In her article, "Giants, Wolves, and Flies: Helping Ourselves and Others," from *Doing Member Care Well*, Kelly O'Donnell uses an acronym "CHOPS" to categorize the types of stressors missionaries encounter on the field.

Cultural ♦ Upon arrival on the field, the missionary must learn to get his needs met in unfamiliar ways related to the change of culture. The protection of the missionary's language learning time is critical for the missionary's effectiveness.

Historical ♦ Living in a foreign country can often magnify one's vulnerabilities from unresolved struggles such as family of origin or personal weakness issues. Thus having balance in one's self care is very important in coping with demands on the field.

Human ♦ One's relationships with family members, team members, colleagues, and nationals are important and can be affected by stress. One needs to be skilled in dealing with interpersonal conflict in healthy and culturally appropriate ways.

Organizational ♦ If there is incongruity between one's convictions and the organizational ethos, then the differing expectations can add stress.

Psychological ♦ Living in a different culture requires healthy emotional stability and self esteem in coping with losses, loneliness, and depression.

Support ♦ These include finances, housing, transportation, donor contacts, and a missionary support group. When the support within the mission agency and outside of the agency support is not adequate, then it can be stressful. In addition to the mission support system, I recommend an outside support network as well.

Spiritual ♦ It is *critical* to maintain intimacy with the Lord during times of pressure. **If one is feeling distant from the Lord, then ask for prayer support by a confidant friend. Be equipped in handling spiritual warfare.**

Hopefully, "CHOPS" will provide one with a framework in understanding the various levels of stressors on the field. Overcoming these stressors will help one grow in their authority on the field as well as in the Lord.



FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD

Continued from page 2...

The meetings were set up under a similar structure to the meetings in my medical school and little did I realize that back at that time God was training me as a medical student for my current work as a resident and community physician.



Medical missions in Ethiopia

Six years later ♦ After more than six years of meeting regularly, we have now extended our ministry to both medical and other health alliance professionals and now meet every two months for a

time of fellowship, worship, and sharing. Our focus is to encourage those in the medical and health fields to understand our roles as Christians who practice medicine and to live as "the salt and light" — that God calls us to be — in our workplace. Often our sharing involves having speakers from our profession speak about medical mission trips and opportunities to serve both here and abroad.

I have been so blessed to see how God has grown and developed our group, Christians in Medicine, with God simply calling me to follow His lead in what started with a small seed.

Join us ♦ If you are a medical or health alliance professional in medicine or dentistry and are interested in joining our group in the Silicon Valley, please feel free to contact me (e-mail newsletter@wcfellowship.org — they know how to get a hold of me).



"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Matt. 5:14-16

VOICES OF THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT



Newsletter vision and purposes ✨ Recently celebrating the one year anniversary of a more frequent format, the monthly WCF Newsletter serves a few purposes. The first is to function as a regular official communication vehicle from the World Christian Fellowship (WCF) to the WCF community at large. The second purpose is to capture the voices of World Christian journeys and articles that describe how God is realigning hearts and lives for his global purposes, and then sharing these with the WCF community for encouragement and equipping. Finally, the WCF newsletter serves to archive the history of what God is doing through the WCF movement in order to inform future generations of Asian Americans who are interested in continuing the spiritual legacy of WCF.

New Name ✨ With the above mentioned vision and purposes in mind, the editors are pleased to announce the new name for the newsletter starting with the first issue of 2009 – introducing **Voices of the Movement**: The World Christian Fellowship Newsletter.

Subscription information ✨ Anyone can subscribe to this electronic newsletter by sending an email to wcf-newsletter-join@wcfellowship.org. WCF newsletters and the article index are posted and archived at wcfellowship.org.

Joining the team, contributions wanted ✨

If you are interested in contributing a testimony or article, or want to help serve on the WCF Newsletter Team, please contact us at newsletter@wcfellowship.org. We have need for a graphic layout person, editors, and both regular and one-time contributors.

Giving thanks ✨ It's been a pleasure to serve the WCF Community through the newsletter this past year. Thanks to all the team members and contributors for each issue! Praise be to God for making it happen each month! We are all here to help tell God's story through our different voices.

*Esther W., Editor-in-Chief
Lillian L., Copy Editor
Jackie W., Managing Editor
David S., Director of Operations*

One of the newsletter purposes is to "...to capture the voices of World Christian journeys and articles that describe how God is realigning hearts and lives for his global purposes, and then sharing these with the WCF community for encouragement and equipping."

WCC 25TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS

Vision and purposes ▲ World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is beginning to make plans to celebrate World Christian Conference's (WCC) 25th anniversary during the *February 2010* WCC. During that WCC and throughout the following year, WCF would like to celebrate the past 25 years by thanking God for what He has already done through the WCF movement; reconnecting with past WCF alumni; recasting WCF's vision; and looking forward towards the future in anticipation of what God might continue to do through the WCF movement.

Celebration preparations: help wanted ▲

If you are interested in serving on the WCF Anniversary Team or contributing in any way, please contact WCF at 25thAnniversary@wcfellowship.org. We are especially looking for people who can and are willing to reach out to previous WCF alumni and be project coordinators/implementers.

