

A Penny For My Thoughts...



3 Days in August

Thanks to the internet, we were able to keep in touch with the first All-China Seminar this weekend from 10-13 August in China. We will present a complete report by brother Lee Yat Kai next Sunday, 20th August when the team returns home on Monday, 14th August. In the meanwhile, we offer you the email messages that have been jamming the cyberwaves between ppcoc, KC Cheang, the Dacuses and China Contact. Now that the seminar is over, we praise God for His protective care and ask you to continue to uplift our brethren in your prayers and let the Lord lead you to reach out to a great nation of a billion souls.

eMail #1:

Here is the latest on the China Seminar. Today is the first day and it is so exciting (i am getting goose pimples) to get these two on-the-spot emails continue to uplift them in prayer

This is KC. We touched base at XXX last evening @ 2200 hrs. All of us are well though a little tired. It was tough travelling from YYY to ZZZ which is the border town between New Territories to China. We were caught in a human traffic at ZZZ. I can't imagine what would happen if there is a stampede.

We had a brief meeting with brethren from Hangchow, Tienjin and Hong Kong last night. We broke up reluctantly because the children were tired. I'll be meeting the rest for breakfast. We planned to have dim sum this morning.

We can be contacted at XXX Hotel, Tel: YYY, Fax: ZZZ. I'm staying with Charles from Hanchow at Room 1234.

Wish you were here.

In praise of His glory,
K C Cheang

it is so exciting to hear from you. we will be praying for you every time we speak to our father and like i told beng chuan yesterday, i wanted to be with you all so much in this historic event however both beng chuan and i agree that unless we learn to step aside and let people like you pick up the ball and run with it we will not do any more than what we are capable of.

what i want to do right now is to get hold of the nearest interflora and send you the biggest bunch of flowers i can afford! i do not know if a fax or note will draw attention to you all but will use this email for communication in case you get back online.

eMail #2

As of yesterday, we have close to thirty who have confirmed to stay in the hotel. We will have a good number (exluding 10 from XXX city itself - they will not need lodging). So, we will have total of about 40 locals attending the programme! This will bring immense challenges to the facilities we have made available - but we like this kind of challenges!

We already have several who reached here ahead of schedule. Last night, spoke with Chee Keen and he told me that PP's people are also in XXX already!

Well, looking forward to the evening to receive the rest of the people. Will send two updates daily starting today. So, expect one tonight.

Please tell my wife and our daughters that I love them and miss them very much. I will be coming to Singapore on 18th Aug (Fri) to take a break and after around 7-10 days, go back to YYY with my family.

Will give more first hand reports to you all in PP then.

**Love to all
China Contact**

i will be forwarding your emails the moment i receive them to as many people as i can in an effort to get all the prayer support for you guys.

boy, this is exciting. what a wonder email is, keeping us in touch, live, as the action takes place!

i am proud of your guys, inspired by your decication and good you will do!

9.15am, 11 Aug 2000 Friday

eMail #3

Subject: Seminar Update (#2)

Hello again,

This should be considered as the second update for the day of 11th Aug (Fri).

We had a little less than thirty gathered for dinner around half past six. Dinner was interrupted couple of times as more and more people checked into the hotel. By the end of dinner, we have close to fifty. Final arrangements were made to check in folks, then we started the evening's programme.

Patrick broke the ice by teaching all to sign the song 'Welcome, Welcome All of You'. By this time we are cramming almost sixty folks into the meeting room! Subsequently, each region appointed a rep to brief the rest about their respective situations.

Pence gave a briefing about the structure of the lessons and we ended the evening with a closing prayer. As I recollect the events and try to organise them in this message, there is only one phrase which can describe this experience adequately: 'Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah!!!!'

**Loving all of you,
China Contact**

**i couldn't sleep the whole night thinking of what you guys were up to.
i had a scary moment when sister dacus called me from China yesterday afternoon.
evidently the dacuses have been waiting for tony at the railway station for over an hour.
it was a good thing that kc (the organized guy) had the presence of mind to email me the hotel and phone number
so i gave it to her and from your report all's well that ended well.**

**what a super gathering it was - brother dacus was afraid that only a few will show up
and when he asked me how many to expect last month, i told him to expect at least 40 in all
50 is a great start and i join you in the 'Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah!!!!' chorus**

please jot down your thoughts as i would like you to share it with PP on aug 20 when you return to Singapore

Proverbs 25:25: 'As cold waters to a thirsty soul, So is good news from a far country.'

keep your reports coming as we keep praying and praising the Lord

eMail #4

Got your email. Thanks for the encouragement and prayers.

Just some news to keep u posted.

We had a very warm welcome dinner and presentation last night. There were as many as 70 of us representing 11 locations from China, Hong Kong and Singapore. Some of the congregations has as low as one member to as many as 20 members. We know of Shanghai and Tienjin but do not know of Zhuhai, Hanchow, Zhangsa, Wuhan, Soochow, Shenzhen. It's great to know that there are so many Christians brothers and sisters in China. I believed that those who are from smaller congregations felt very encouraged with this meeting. Many are also grateful that PP sponsored this event.

Patrick did a wonderful job teaching us to sing in the sign language. We learnt the song Welcome All of You. It was an eye opener for many.

This morning Pence began his lesson on tentmaking. Many were captivated by this buzzword and were impressed with the lessons. I saw many youths taking notes. I felt so old here, in the spiritual sense, because many of them were only baptised in 1998 or 1999. I think the men need a lot of guidance here. Dan seemed to be doing amazing job here. The harvest is plentiful but the workers few. Many congregations know him and had heard his sermons. Have to go now for the noon session.

Til we meet again.

**Cheerio!
KC Cheang**

so good to get these play-by-play reports even as the seminar is continuing. china is such a great country with 1 billions souls. everyone that can do something needs to throw their full weight into it. my prayer is that the Lord will use all of us working in full cooperation in this great task of mission possible

eMail #5

You will be pleased with what is happening here.. Over 50 people were here Friday, and about 40 were here for the Workshop on Sat. Some from HK had to return. You really should get K.C., Patrick & Teng to give a rousing report to all. What a project. Already talking about next year.

**Wish you were here.
Pence**

I said more than once last night--"wouldn't Henry love this!" People just kept arriving during the

meal and the beginning of the Friday night session. As Patrick said... this is overwhelming!

Janis

i knew this seminar is going to be historic, but i never figured that you all will get hysteric about it! Wow, this is really great.

eMail #6

This is my Update #3 - the only one I can get out today.

To tell you the truth, I had difficulty sleeping last night myself! I tossed and turned all night. When I sensed the slightest hint of dawn, got up and decided to take a walk around the hotel and hummed some hymns.

Started the day by collecting the data of everyone in order to compile the attendance list. We started the lessons in good time and pretty much got through the first day's programme without a hitch. The lessons were well thought out and Pence presented them in a good; clear and concise manner. KC was asked to help share on the various ways a congregation could use some creativity in organising the worship experience.

One family, Ma Xiang Bin, his wife Cecilia and their son had to check out. Their three year old boy had been having a fever since arriving yesterday and his temperature was getting high. In fact, they had brought the boy to hospital at 4am in the morning but saw no progress after four hours. We said a prayer on their behalf before we started lesson four.

When I helped them to check out, Cecilia was visibly shaken. She apologised for causing any inconvenience but I reassured her that we all wished for their son to be well and they should go back to Guangzhou quickly.

With the help of some quick typing by sis Ponny Kwong (Wah Fu COC), the attendance list was done up. Everyone present was given a copy.

While waiting for dinner's assembly, we planned tomorrow's worship order. We will sign the songs tomorrow - the situation simply doesn't allow us to ignore the immense talents of Patrick!!!!

We will involve Chinese brothers in the MTS and they were informed so that they could get ready.

We look forward to worship the CREATOR tomorrow "in spiritual sync" with you all at PP!

SIDE DISHES:

- 1. Belinda started some of the girls singing during lesson breaks.**
- 2. Janis mentioned that she wished Henry was here with us last night as dinner was interrupted several times. She said, "Henry would have loved to see the crowd keep comin' in!!!!".**
- 3. Chee Keen came this morning having barely recovered from flu.**
- 4. "The busiest man in XXX" award has to go to Tony. He was multitasked to waste and used 300% over his capacity. My respects to you Tony!**
- 5. Those who were interested went to visit the tallest building in XXX. Some others had to file their reports.....**

That is all for now,

Please sing (sing, NOT sign) Hymn #148 tomorrow if you will. We appreciate all your prayers. Halelujah Praise Jehovah!!!!!

China Contact

Date: Mon, 14 Aug 2000 00:27:23 SGT

Subject: RE:Seminar Update (#4)

Hello again, this will be the final report for the seminar.

We started the day by worshipping GOD. It was a great event. All present signed the songs with enthusiasm. Praise GOD for looking after us!

After worship, Pence did the final lesson on our programme. We then went to lunch - one more love feast before we bid each other GOD Speed as quite a few checked out after that.

This is really a special event in my life! I could not have imagined that this is really taking place. We had the correct chemistry to get everything together. The team that brought this together is talented each in his/her own way.

Most of all, the Creator has allowed this event to take place. We had no problem whatsoever from any worldly principalities or powers. GOD is good to us all.

All who attended agreed that it was indeed a good event. Everyone hope that they will get a chance to meet in such fashion again next year. Inside my heart, I pray unto GOD that we may be granted another opportunity to do something like this next year. May His longsuffering toward us not run out before that. We hope to bring the gospel to more people in China.

There may be a need for us to start visiting other places in China. Ideas such as these came out and we need to take a long look at the possibilities and the demands they put on our resources.

May we continue to serve this Great and Living and Almighty GOD and let the good news of salvation be brought to more and more people. Amen!

China Contact

i was looking forward to your last report so that i can be assured that all is a-ok

people have been praying for all of you all over the world eg

Thanks for the China update. Isn't technology wonderful! We share with you your excitement from as far as Australia just reading of the good work being done in China through the daily updates. We will continue to cover them with our prayers. Keep up the good work!

**Yours in Christ
Paul and Ivy**

what i observe is

1 the wholehearted devotion of you guys

2 the great joy of your coming together

3 the burden of being responsible for each other

this is just great to see what the Lord will lead us to

praise God for His protection, love and care

btw we sang Hallelujah Praise Jehovah at both our morning worships at PP, mentioning that you folks in China will be doing the same

ps all these emails are on our coc webpage at <http://home.pacific.net.sg/~ppcoc/cocnews.htm>

While I am back at work in Hong kong, the Singapore brethen (KC, Belinda, Teng, Patrick & Yat Kai) have departed from my home last night after a night's stay with me. We have completed the training and sessions in XXX and they have decided to come over to Hong Kong and stay at my place. I am overwhelmed and so eager to have our dear Singaporean "tentmakers" at my home.

We spent a great time together and I enjoyed their company very much. Almost feel like flying home and continue to enjoyed this sweet fellowship with you all.

By today, Tony and family would also have left XXX and will be making their way back to Singapore. The Shanghai brethen should be leaving for home also. The Tianjin brethen will stay another day due to lack of train seats.

I am so happy to be part of this seminar. It deeply impressed a lot of further thoughts and ways to work on this mission, as we share in our discussions. As we departed, I do sense a new mission... continuation of what have been done, and what is taking place. And we will see more of each other and more activities in the very near future.

May all of you have a safe trip and till we meet again... Godspeed.

**David
Hong Kong**

yes, there is a lot of work to do and it is high time that chinese Christians feel the burden to take the gospel back to our homeland. let us all work together in unity and urgency as God opens the door for us!

Praise God for keeping all of you safe and thank you for providing hospitality, leadership and example for us all.

We are in Beijing and just got from Great Wall. What a sight.

The Workshop was a great success by any measure. I believe we have broken real new ground. Now we must decide how to follow up appropriately. Everyone was very positive, and no hitches I could tell. Yat Kai spelled it out well. All our team contributed significantly.

See you Fri.

**Love to all,
Pence & Janis**

When everyone gives of their best for the praise of His glory, the whole body is edified -- like NT christians who were praising God and having favour with all the people.

Yat Kai will share the China experience with PP in the morning, and as we are riding on this crest, we will do a team preaching deal in the evening - of 5 minute off-the-cuff comments with Teng and you sharing the impact and KC sharing the future needs.

God has opened the door and we need to go in. Have a safe trip back.