

"Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them."

Daniel 10:12

"因为自从第一日你立志要明白，又在你上帝面前刻苦自己，你的话已蒙应允；我就是因你的话而来。"

但以理书 10:12

"He knew conclusively now that the prayers of God's people had brought the harvest... It was not being heard at last now; it had been heard then... The long dark months of testing were not God's mistake: they were God's perfect plan."

(from *Mountain Rain*, biography of James Fraser)

Hi all,

The day after Easter Sunday, I (Josh) set out on a great spring break adventure with my son John, my brother Jonathan, and our friends and coworkers from Hong Kong, the Scheiwes. We were headed to the Nujiang River valley, which has its source in the high country of Tibet and follows along the border with Myanmar before flowing south to form the frontier between Myanmar and Thailand.

We came to this place for several reasons:

...to see this remote region of Yunnan province where CWEF is currently providing financial support for 50 high school students from low-income families in the Nujiang area.

...to build local relationships and explore potential new initiatives in this area.

...to enjoy a time of restoration, prayer, and fellowship in a majestic part of God's good creation.

...to introduce my son and brother to a part of the country that has been a major part of my life these past 10+ years.

...to relive old stories and treasured memories from the Scheiwe family's season of living and serving in Yunnan.

...to follow in the footsteps and be inspired by the stories of pioneering Kingdom workers in this area, including an Englishman named James Fraser, who arrived in Yunnan in 1908 at the age of 2022.



Recharging in creation & gaining inspiration from heroes of faith

Part of the experience of this trip was reading *Mountain Rain*, the biography of [James Fraser's incredible life and work](#) among the Lisu ethnic minority group in this part of Yunnan. When reading this account of the amazing things God did through Fraser and his coworkers, one of the things that is so powerful, clear, and convicting is their strong and growing commitment to the critical importance of prayer – “*work on our knees*” – as Fraser called it in one of his frequent letters to his prayer circle in the UK.

I have to admit with some regret that – even after so many years of living and serving overseas – I have not fully internalized this lesson and made prayer the #1 priority in my own life and work. I am often “too busy” to focus on prayer or to ask others – especially all of you – to pray with us.

It's never too late to learn a lesson and make a change.

With that in mind, we plan to begin using a digital tool called [Prayvine](#) to send out more regular prayer requests. These will be brief, in-the-moment updates and requests that might be related to an event, or an upcoming trip, or a special need we may have for spiritual support and encouragement.

The truth is that our family and the CWEF organization need your prayers more than ever, and we would be so grateful if you would join this new ‘prayer circle’ with us. **If you would like to be included, please simply reply to this email with a simple message of “PRAY”,** and we will add you to the list.

p.s. -- We do also intend to continue sending updates in this newsletter format, and to be more consistent in doing so. :)

You can join His mission in Asia! We would love to partner with you.

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Give by Check: "Mission of Christ Network" (include "Asia - Josh & Coco Lange" in memo line) PO Box 533, Concordia, MO 64020

Questions? Contact: sara.endorf@missionofchrist.org ; (888) 495-9005 ext. 706



[click image above to watch recent CWEF Community Gathering]

In March, our CWEF team hosted another online Community Gathering that provided updates about CWEF's planned work in 2024 for our partners and supporters. You can [get the full update by clicking here](#), or on the image above.

One of the new programs that we shared about during this Community Gathering came as a surprise to us, initially.

Let me explain:

In late 2023, CWEF was invited to apply for a significant grant opportunity from the 3M Corporation, which was to be focused on STEM or Skilled Trades learning experiences for underprivileged people in Hong Kong. This wasn't really in our 'wheelhouse', but as an organization founded in Hong Kong which until now has focused its work almost exclusively in more rural, underprivileged areas of China and Southeast Asia, we had been considering how we might begin to do some meaningful work locally in Hong Kong. Well... before we were truly ready for it, here was our opportunity!



Visiting one of the housing sites in HK (still under construction)

By God's grace and through an invitation from Annissa Lui (one of our board members), we were able to make a good connection with the team at [Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service \(HKLSS\)](#). Together, we developed a new program, for which we submitted a grant application of over US\$40,000 to support STEM educational opportunities for people living in new [transitional housing communities](#) managed by HKLSS. The grant application was quickly approved in early 2024, and we are now moving forward with the implementation!

Program activities will take the form of monthly workshops and summer camps during school holidays. We will take advantage of the development of community gardens at one of the sites as the primary platform for learning. Skilled trainers will incorporate learning opportunities related to science, technology, engineering, design, conservation, and sustainable agriculture.

Many of the low-income residents of these transitional housing communities were previously living in inadequate or unsafe living conditions, such as the infamous subdivided, tiny apartments in Hong Kong which are sometimes called "coffin cubicles". Now, these families will live in much-improved conditions in a more rural area of Hong Kong, be blessed by educational programs like the one CWEF is supporting, and be surrounded by loving Christian social workers from HKLSS. We hadn't planned on any of this, but we trust that His plan is better than ours. Thank God for His goodness!

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you in this work – HIS work, to restore the whole world to himself in JC.

Thank You and God Bless You!

In His Love – Josh & Coco, John & Sophie

PRAYER POINTS

1. For Coco's father, who is preparing for a surgery to remove a lump/nodule from one of his lungs.
2. For all the people we met during our recent trip to Yunnan, especially Pastor X, Brother W, and Uncle W.
3. For all of our MCN and CWEF team members, for protection and courage as we do the work HE has called us to.
4. For our local congregation here, that we would grow together as we deepen our trust in HIM.
5. For our family – for deepening faith, hope, love, and wisdom.

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