



Voices of the Movement



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Divine Diversions Within a Grand Plan

by Mei H.



With English students after reading club

Mei H. emigrated from Taiwan to America at age 2 and she received Jesus as Savior at age 14. As a sophomore at Urbana 1996, Mei surrendered her life to Jesus as Lord and committed to join missions after graduation from MIT. In 1999 she earned an S.B. in Biology and later in 2006 completed a teaching credential at UCLA. Since 2007 Mei has been training to become more equipped for the field by evangelizing, discipling, and leading small groups with In Christ Alone (ICA) ministry at USC.

Divine detainment ❖ It was the summer of 2008 and our team was on a university campus in a prominent East Asian city. High profile international gaming events would soon commence in the city. A voice behind me said, “Zhe shi shenme? (what’s this?)” Under my breath, I uttered softly, “Uh oh.” I turned and saw a young guard about 20 years old dressed in an olive green uniform. The girl I was talking with

had just told him that I was sharing my religion with her.

For the next four and a half hours, I was detained and questioned by six officials at an interrogation station. When all was said and done, our team was fined, deported, and blacklisted — unable to return for another five years. Three guards and a professor, who were present, *continued on page 3*

The girl I was talking with had just told the guard that I was sharing my religion with her.

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actually showed concern about my welfare and expressed genuine curiosity about my spiritual beliefs and America. The officials, however, were gruff and stern, chastising me for breaking government laws that restrict the act of proselytizing. In all the interactions, I had the honor of truthfully representing Jesus, motivated by His commands to share His love.

Through this experience, I learned that God has a huge heart for the lost and wants us to preach the Gospel — even in closed countries. At the end of the detainment I had told the religious affairs director that our team would probably stop proselytizing and handing out tracts.

But the very next morning for quiet time, we all read Acts 4:18-20 which states that rulers “commanded John and Peter not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.” But the two disciples responded, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

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Celebrating her birthday with students

Past divine diversions ❖ Looking back on my life, I can see His hand weaving a beautiful tapestry whenever I follow Jesus versus a random mess whenever I take things into my own hands. In 2004, when East Asia reopened after the SARS epidemic, sending agencies experienced difficulties in raising short-term teams for diverted areas. One such agency shared at my church’s Mission Fellowship to recruit for a team for Kyrgyzstan, formerly a Soviet state. The agency leaders shared from Acts 16:6-10 which describes Paul’s vision of a man from Macedonia pleading for help. The Scriptures record how the Holy Spirit

prevents Paul and his team from preaching the Gospel in Asia and instead redirects them to Macedonia. This scene paralleled how SARS had diverted one of the agency’s teams to the Islamic country of Kyrgyzstan in East Asia. Moved by Acts 16:6-10 with compassion for the Kyrgyz to hear the Gospel, I quit my job as a cell biology lab technician at Stanford and went to Kyrgyzstan for two weeks to teach English. I felt stretched beyond my comfort zone, but it was a positive experience.

Back in the Bay Area, I had no job and started asking God what graduate degree He wanted me to pursue. After months of prayer, I felt the Lord leading me to apply to teaching programs. I completed my graduate applications in January. While waiting for school to start in the fall, I felt the Lord calling me back to Kyrgyzstan for six months since they needed English

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teachers for Spring semester 2005. I returned to the same youth center and taught intermediate English classes to Russian speakers during the Spring and Summer sessions. I felt extremely humiliated because I failed at teaching English to my students and became clinically depressed. But now the Lord finally had my full attention and He revealed to me my sin of unforgiveness toward people. *Although I had received Jesus as Savior at 14 and Lord at 19, I didn't begin to feel the weight of my sin until age 28.*

I wrote in my notebook, "Pray about going back to Kyrgyzstan." A month later, our ministry director invited me to go to Kyrgyzstan for a month to teach . . .

Fortunately, God helped me survive by sending a short-term team of English teachers to the youth center. It was clearly a divine appointment because the team came from UCLA where I was headed for graduate studies. They absorbed my students and spared me from teaching the summer session. I was deeply impressed with their daily disciplines of jogging at 5:30 am, quiet time, and Scripture memory, and their heart for missions. They did an awesome job of loving the students and teaching.

God redirects for His glory ❖

In September 2005, I enrolled at UCLA and started going to church with the short-term team I had met in Kyrgyzstan. In March 2007, the Lord told me to spend my summer teaching English and loving students just like the team I had met in 2005. I went fearfully. It was an amazing experience that convinced me to become a staff trainee with my LA church. Summer 2008, I taught English again. This was the trip where our team was deported and blacklisted. Since an East Asia long-term was on our team, he was banned from reentering even though he had a new passport and visa.

Because of this unforeseen situation, our ministry director decided to divert him and another East Asia long-term to Kyrgyzstan to plant a new ministry in October 2008.

In November 2010, I attended the IHOP (International House of Prayer) Fight! Conference in L.A. A famous prophetic leader, Cindy Jacobs,

went to the podium and gave this prophecy: "Macedonian call — from Central Asia and the Middle East — Come and help us!" This referenced the same passage that had moved me to go to Kyrgyzstan in 2004. I wrote in my notebook, "Pray about going back to Kyrgyzstan." A month later, our ministry director invited me to go to Kyrgyzstan for a month to teach English to high school and university students. While there, I joked with my students, "Do you like our two long-term teachers who live here? Well, you can thank me [because I got one of them deported from East Asia]." The students expressed thankfulness for our two long-termers. If I had not been detained in East Asia and gotten our whole team blacklisted, our long-term workers would likely still be in East Asia and not reaching out to Muslims.

In hindsight I can see God's sovereign hand at work. God used Acts 16:6-10 to move me to go to Kyrgyzstan. Little did I know He had greater plans than simply allowing SARS to divert workers to Muslims. It wasn't until January 2011 that I made sense of my "mistake" of getting the 2008 team blacklisted; that God actually used it for His purpose of diverting our long-term workers to the Muslims. ❖



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear World Christian,

Spring is here and the world looks brighter and greener! What a difference a change of season makes. In this issue of *Voices of the Movement* the two feature articles also speak of change. Andrew W's testimony highlights the changes he made in terms of geography but more importantly how this led to a very beneficial development of a true community. He no longer lived solely for himself as he was so used to doing. His story reflects the voice of one who is maturing and learning to make better decisions, all the while sharing some painfully honest parts of his journey.

Mei H's riveting article carries a tone of ultra important travel among high-security countries with police watching the team's moves. She and her team faced changes and diversions of all sorts including the dreaded face-to-face meeting with authorities. However, she and her team chose to let the Lord guide them through the changes rather than let circumstances determine their decisions. In hindsight, Mei realizes how clearly God had guided her through the surprises and "mistakes."

As you read both of these stories, I hope that you'll realize that God ultimately wants to change us for the better as we obey His commands and walk in His ways. As we endure hardship and trials of all kinds, may we face them with joy, knowing that they help mature our faith in God so that we lack nothing. I heard a quote the other day that I'd like to pass along: "Joy is the byproduct of obedience to God."

For the Glory of His Gospel,



Managing Editor

lillian@wcfellowship.org

PRAYER: THE FUEL OF THE MOVEMENT

Regional WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Prayer Groups

The prayer groups listed below meet monthly. Join one or start your own!

For more information e-mail prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **Seattle (Tukwila, WA)**

Contact: Seattle-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **L.A. (Whittier, CA)**

Contact: LA-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **Mid-peninsula NorCal (San Mateo, CA)**

Contact: midpeninsula-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **S.F. Monthly Missions Meeting (San Francisco, CA)**

Contact: SF-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **East/South Bay NorCal (Fremont, CA)**

Contact: SouthBay-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **South Bay NorCal (Mountain View, CA)**

Contact: sbay-mtview-prayer@wcfellowship.org

"Let these prayers of the saints be sweet smelling incense to Your heart." — Matt Redman





WANTED: Lone Ranger Seeking Community

by Andrew W.

Born and raised on the East Coast, Andrew W. lives and works in the Silicon Valley as a software tester by day, and enjoys the hobbies karate and reading by night. Andrew and his mom started going to church after his spiritual family invited them to church one weekend during his middle school years. He currently ministers in discipleship and is a member of the planning committee for WCC 2012.

Latchkey kid ❖ For the longest time I was unaware of my need for community. Growing up as an only child and a latchkey kid meant I found ways to occupy my time with solitary activities (e.g. piano practice, reading, or running) rather than group activities. I enjoyed tremendous freedom and for the most part enjoyed learning though

it sometimes became learning for learning's sake rather than for learning for a purpose. As a result, through college and most of my post-college years I mainly pursued my interests, largely disconnected from others. For example, I often chose going to martial arts practice over going to small group or could not participate in fellowship related activities due to a class scheduling conflict. I realized something was wrong by my senior year when I was still wondering where I belonged or continuing to feel as if I didn't belong anywhere, which I felt from my freshman year. At that time, I wasn't able to identify my problem or remedy it.

Although I had participated previously in short-term missions trips, it wasn't until WCC 2004 that God presented me an opportunity to live overseas for a longer period of time. While browsing the ministry booths, I bumped into the father of one of my college friends. He was representing TeachOverseas.org and encouraged me to apply. I had dreamed of being overseas for an extended period of time ever since college and so I sent in my application.

Developing community ❖

During that year in Southeast Asia I experienced the joy of community
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in earnest — for the first time. This surprise outcome occurred primarily because developing relationships with others was thrust upon me as a priority pursuit due to the nature of my being there. For instance, as a team, we stayed together in a guesthouse with individual bedrooms. We often shared meals with our local and expat friends, hung out at a cafe that some of our expat friends had started to raise funds for street children, and volunteered with them as they started an English club (for locals to practice their English). In a local language class that a teammate and I started taking, one of our classmates helped kick off a rotating Friday lunch potluck that became a highlight of



Andrew exiting the guesthouse with his used motorbike

my week. All this eating together was a stark contrast to how I'd often spend my meals back in the States — usually late and on my own as I was rushing from activity to activity.

During this life of community in Southeast Asia, I experienced how to disagree without being disagreeable, how to come alongside and support others in their times of need, and how to be supported. In a mix of believers and non-believers, it was



Children Andrew taught in Southeast Asia

a faint flavor of Hebrews 10:24-25 for me and incredibly refreshing. “Tasting” community in Southeast Asia caused me to realize just how hungry I was for community in my spiritual journey. God showed me the importance of communal living for accountability and working together for God’s purposes. These lessons of community proved invaluable to me, not only for my spiritual health but also as a way through which I could discover my calling from God.

Latchkey Christian ✦ After an incredible experience abroad, God allowed me to return to the Bay Area to work again in the tech industry. The transition home was a mix of hope and frustration. I felt hopeful by God’s leading yet I wondered about His future plans for me. Slowly I began to understand that my time in the Bay Area was to help me to foster the community in the body of Christ that I had enjoyed overseas. Granted, this

discovery has been far from sure and steady since I felt deep frustration in my inability to develop the same kind of community because I easily fell back into old, individualistic ways that were so natural and ingrained in me.

It took me a while to realize that I was no longer making building relationship with others a priority and began neglecting the development of a healthy church body life. I was

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As it is written in Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."



Medical missions team in Angkor Wat, Cambodia

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only half-cognizant of it as I happily took to my former hobbies. However, the need for a strong support network was glaringly highlighted when I entered and subsequently exited a dating relationship in a state of greater isolation than when I'd entered it. This isolation wreaked relational, spiritual, and emotional havoc on me, revealing the real state of my impoverishment.

As a result, I lost good friends and injured mentorship relationships that I had been building. I felt drained. In spite of attempting to turn to God for solace, I could not provide the type of emotional support for those I'd been attempting to mentor and instead ignored them or worse, turned on

them. Additionally I'd placed hope in and idolized the potential for another dating relationship with another friend (obviously wrongly timed) and instead drove her away. I could see, though I could not seem to prevent the fact that I was not being myself as I understood myself to be, and in fact was acting very contrary to the ideals I purported to have. I couldn't give to others what I didn't have; I couldn't request from others what I ought to be requesting from God alone. Some of these friendships I believe are lost forever; while others I hope to repair and salvage.

Growing in community ❖ Through my struggling for maturity, God's grace began to heal me. One way He did this was bringing me back in contact with the WCC community again. The opportunity to serve

together with others helped ground me in a way that my other attempts (hobbies, missions trips, and the like) had not. Participating in the planning for an annual missions conference gave me a glimpse into how a band of people can come together as a team, balance planning with seeking God's guidance, while caring for each other. As a side benefit, I found serving together with brothers and sisters an enjoyable and fun event. I have greatly appreciated being able to relax into a like-minded community, serving together for God's purposes. As it is written in Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Presently I sense that God is calling me to rediscover who He is in terms of provider, guide, and father figure, and to build upon the lessons I learned in joy of community during my brief stint overseas. He is teaching me lessons in living and working with others in close quarters that I've managed to avoid most of my life. Since I was accustomed to receiving help from others or having time all to myself, the demand of being responsible or lending a hand to others has definitely required a shift in my attitude. I see this as a growth process for me in leadership and servanthood. 🙏

OPPORTUNITIES

Seminar Coordinators

Vision and purposes ♦ The purposes of the World Christian Fellowship (WCF) include equipping, activating, networking, and partnering with individual Asian-American World Christians and those who identify closely with the Asian-American worldview, and their churches. To this aim, WCF hopes to host more regional one-day seminars with relevant workshop content throughout the year in addition to the annual World Christian Conference (WCC).

Seminar coordinators wanted ♦ WCF is looking for a regional seminar coordinator each for the Southern California and Seattle areas. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve God through the WCF movement and have gifts and talents in the areas of event planning, marketing, and networking please contact us at info@wcfellowship.org.

Accountant and/or Grant Writer

Vision and purposes ♦ World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is committed to fiduciary standards that are above reproach and continuously strive to develop and improve the organization's financial and financial resource systems.

Accountant and/or Grant writer: help wanted ♦ If God has gifted you with experience and talent in the area of accounting and research/grant writing AND you believe in the vision of WCF of mobilizing more Asian-American Christians for God's global purposes, please consider serving in this area. If you are interested in serving as an accountant and/or grant writer for WCF, please contact info@wcfellowship.org.

WCF PURPOSES

The purposes of **World Christian Fellowship (WCF)** are to challenge and empower individual Christians and churches to:

- **Equip** committed Asian-American World Christians and World Christians who closely identify with the Asian-American worldview who are active disciples and evangelists for the nations, both in local and overseas ministry.
- **Activate** these individuals and churches to the nations through prayer, training, guidance, and support.
- **Facilitate** teamwork and networking among individuals, churches, and other organizations with a World Christian vision.
- **Partner** with other organizations and networks with complementary objectives so that we as World Christians can unite towards the goal of building up the universal body of Christ.

DONATIONS

Donations ▶ If you would like to make a charitable contribution, please send checks payable to *World Christian Fellowship* and mail to P.O. Box 256, Mountain View, CA, 94042-0256. Make sure you include a valid address so that we can send you a tax-deductible receipt.

Amazon.com affiliate link ▶ If you already do some of your shopping at **Amazon.com**, you can help WCF receive a small percentage back by **clicking through our affiliate link** at wcfellowship.org/contact.html and making a purchase during the same session.



Voices of the Movement, the monthly online publication of WCF, serves to inspire and motivate the World Christian community through articles contributed by fellow World Christians. In its fourth year of publication, Voices of the Movement is also an archive of stories that document God's work through Asian-American World Christians and those who closely identify with the Asian-American worldview in the growth of His Kingdom on earth.

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