WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2010

Voices of the Movement

WCF NORCAL SUMMER SEMINAR ANNOUNCED!

WCF SOCAL SEMINAR: Sign up today

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Photo: Life in a university town in China

Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, Eric moved to the Bay Area to work as an engineer in 2003. While living in the community of a local church, he came to believe in Christ in 2004. In 2008, God called Eric to study and later work in China. This article is a testimony told through a series of flashbacks on his World Christian journey.

Called to Stay or Called to Go?

by Eric L.

My life in the fall 2005 ✣ I arrived at this local church two years ago, and have recently decided to attend this congregation regularly. In the past two years I joined my first small group, accepted Christ, got baptized, witnessed a friend leave for full-time missions, became a core member and then later served as a small group facilitator. Compelled by my small group leader's testimony of living a balanced life of work and faith, I came to understand the significance of living as a Christian. At the time, I was moved to go overseas to study and help with Christian ministries. Naturally, I thought to myself, *Is this too much, too fast?*

Let me explain the process by which God guided me towards going to China. In 2005 I held a decent job working at a well-run company with a recent promotion to manager. I had wanted to try managing and thankfully the opportunity came earlier than expected. Part of my new role was to manage a few people here in the Silicon Valley and to help start up a China office and manage its personnel. I visited China a few times to start the office as well as train the new employees. My co-workers there were about 25 years old with 1 - 2 years of work experience. I had gotten to know them quite well — well enough that I actually chatted with them through IM almost every day. Maybe it was just their way of practicing English, but they always seemed eager to talk.

Through these conversations, I gained an impression of the new generation of middle-class workers who, with the economic boom in China, were making higher salaries and living more comfortably than the previous generation that had many burdens to deal with. The Chinese society was pushing the idea that what one needs are cash, a car, and a condo. But with people getting scattered all over the country and away from their hometowns, they often lacked community. I knew it was a long shot, but I wanted to make a difference for the next generation of workers by sharing the Gospel through my life.

Dreams formed ✣ For the past two years I had been thinking about doing two things in the near future. The first was to live in a Chinese-speaking country to improve my

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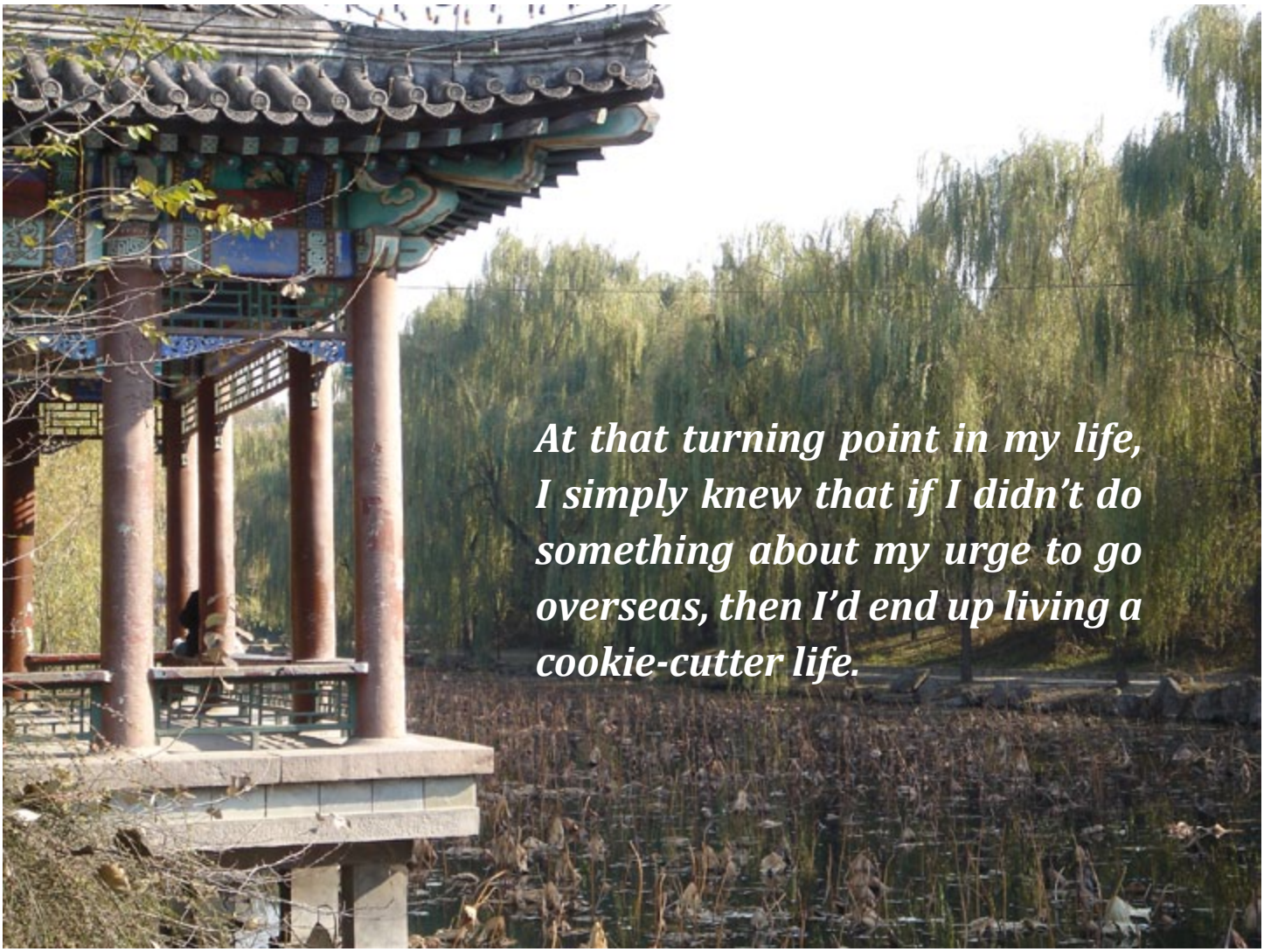
Mandarin and the second was to enroll in an American business school. I had intended to study that summer in 2005 to write the GMAT, but that never happened. While I had plenty of time to study, the goal of attending a business school did not prove a strong enough motivation for me to study during the summer. In fact, studying was totally out of the picture when I instead ventured to China for a business trip and a vision trip in Beijing. Realizing that "time off" would use up most of any time left needed to prepare for the GMAT, thoughts of business school quickly dwindled, and I began to plan for something else.

However, while in Beijing for my vision trip, I was approached with an unexpected opportunity. During a visit to a local university where our host missionary had earned his MBA, I thought to myself, *The campus is nice and everything and yeah it's cool to see where he had gone to school, but I thought we were going to check out Tsing Hua University*. Then, without any of us asking, he brought us to the admissions office. I thought that he simply had some paperwork to process. On the contrary, this is where I learned more about the MBA program and became hooked on it. I realized that enrolling there would allow me to accomplish my two desires: Study for an MBA and improve my Mandarin in Asia. I couldn't believe the timing — applications weren't due until the following year, 2006, which would give me enough time to get ready for the GMAT.

It seemed too perfect, too well laid out. I could only see this as one door that God was opening for me. Of



Called to Stay or Called To Go

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course the trade-off would be me leaving California for an extended period of time. Plus, choosing to earn an MBA in China would lead to staying to engage in future business. This, of course, was what I had planned to do. Also, by working there I would be available to share to the Gospel with middle-class workers.

At that turning point in my life, I simply knew that if I didn't do something about my urge to go overseas, then I'd end up living a cookie-cutter life. Sure, it'd be nice to settle down, get married, own a house, and have kids, but that almost seemed selfish to me. I felt both amazed and scared about this "dream come true". A big part of me did not want to be complacent: *God put us here to do His good work, and I believed that God wanted me to do it in China.*

Dreams fulfilled ✣ In 2008 I completed an MBA in Beijing and then worked in a startup in southern China for two years. What I most enjoyed over the two years was the opportunity to live life with my local classmates. While many international students lived off campus, I chose to live on campus. It was the simple things like riding our bicycles to class, eating meals in the cafeteria, playing cards in the dorm, and those late nights working on projects that are the moments that I most cherish.

Enjoying a home cooked meal with classmates and friends.

I truly believe that to effectively share the Gospel one must earn the privilege; and over those two years I think that I was able to achieve that. Relationships were developed in which we could freely share our thoughts and ask questions that hopefully became the necessary seeds for future growth.

I have since returned to the Silicon Valley and continue to work with this startup business. We often think about whether a certain opportunity is our calling. However, maybe we ought to ask ourselves, "If God is not calling me to go, is He calling me to stay?" The following Bible verses have inspired me on my journey as a World Christian:

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:33-34).

"His master said to him, 'Well done good and faithful slave! You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master!'" Matthew 25:21.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Mission Care Seminar

- ***What do missionaries go through out on the field?***
- ***Do you wish you had more support from your friends and your church back home when you were serving overseas?***
- ***Or are you on your church's missions committee and are seeking to understand how to practically care for missionaries your church is supporting?***
- ***Are you a pastor who endeavors how to connect those on the field with those in your congregation?***

AACCS (Asian American Christian Counseling Service, aaccs.org) and **WCF** are partnering together once again to present a seminar, this time in Southern California, to help churches and their pastors, missions committees, and friends of missionaries to more effectively care for those who are serving overseas or are returning home.

Ron and Carol Miyake will share their experiences and time-proven knowledge on how to care for missionaries on the field, upon re-entry, and how to assist them in pre-field preparations.

Come join us and invite your friends, your church's missions committee, and pastor! It'll be a powerful time of equipping.

June 25-26, 2010,
Friday 7:30pm – Saturday 3:00pm

Chinese Evangelical Free Church
1111 South Atlantic Boulevard
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Session 1: Fri. 7:30-10:00pm *Pre-field*
Session 2: Sat 9:00am-Noon *Caring for missionaries in the field*
Lunch Break: Noon-1:00pm *(on-site)*
Session 3: 1:00pm-3:00pm *Re-entry post-field care*

The seminar is a F R E E event hosted by WCF and AACCS.
Lunch will be provided on site for a nominal charge.
To register, please email
teresac@team.wcfellowship.org by June 22, 2010.

OUR SPEAKERS

RON MIYAKE, along with his wife, Carol, and their two daughters, were missionaries with American Baptist Churches, USA for 10 years. They served in Yokohama, Japan for eight years. They began serving in Japan when their daughters were 3 years old and 1 years old.

Ron is currently in his 11th year as an associate pastor at Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley. He oversees the prayer ministries and marriage and family ministries. He has also served as the associate pastor overseeing Outreach Ministries.

Prior to going into full-time ministry, Ron was a teacher for eight years in LA. Unified Schools. Recently, he has also served as a member of the World Christian Fellowship Board of Directors. Ron enjoys sports, especially basketball and running marathons.

CAROL MIYAKE is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Christian Coach and works as a counselor at Asian American Christian Counseling Service (AACCS) in Alhambra, Calif. She is involved in training other Christian therapists in providing member care to both overseas and home missionaries. Additionally, Carol currently works as a Christian Life Coach."

She and Ron also provide member care at the annual Japan Evangelical Missionary Association Annual Missionary Conferences.

WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP presents

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA JULY 2010 SEMINAR

GOSPEL CONTEXTUALIZATION: SHAME VERSUS GUILT

Interested in ministering cross-culturally in Asian countries or to Asian people groups?

How will you connect with those groups if your Gospel presentation is overly "Western-centric" and coming from a GUILT-driven perspective when most Asian cultures are SHAME-based?

This seminar will explore how an Asian understanding of the Gospel and human relationships provide powerful insights for more effectively reaching Asians as well as a different way of discussing sin and salvation.

Christian presentations of the Gospel have been understood overwhelmingly based on sin as a guilt aspect, which arises from a Western understanding of human failure due to the breaking of the law and violation of one's conscience internally. Less discussed are Asian understandings of sin as shame and the breaking of relations between people externally. This presentation and interactive discussion will explore how an Asian understanding of the Gospel and human relationships provide powerful insights for more effectively reaching Asians as well as a different way of discussing sin and salvation.

Speaker: John C.

Date: Saturday afternoon, July 31, 2010

Time: 1pm - 5pm

Venue: East Bay location to be confirmed

Format: Presentation with Q&A + Interactive group discussion and examination of case studies

Cost: $15; however people traveling from outside the SF Bay Area can attend for free. Please pre-register by Wednesday, July 28 for courtesy headcount; Onsite at the door registrations also accepted.

For more information and to pre-register:
e-mail seminar@wcfellowship.org

Speaker Bio:

Originally from Southeast Asia, John C. has lived in the US for more than 10 years. After completing undergraduate studies in chemistry and education, John attended Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to obtain both an M. Div and Th. M in Missions and Evangelism. John is completing the Ph. D program in Intercultural Studies at Trinity while his wife is pursuing a Th. M in Old Testament. John currently serves by leading an outreach ministry focused on international students and immigrants in the Chicagoland area. He is also a mobilizer for OMF International in Southeast Asia Muslim ministries and serves as Trinity's Field Education Coordinator.

From the Editor's Desk

Dear WCF community:

Perhaps you've attended WCC in past. Have you ever thought it would be nice to have missional equipping more than just once a year, and maybe not in as intense of a format as a 3-day weekend? I know I have. This summer WCF is pleased to offer two 1-day seminars to help equip our constituency for God's purposes. The Southern California seminar at the end of June will be on missionary care and will focus on how churches and individuals can become better senders. The Northern California seminar at the end of July will help attendees better understand how to minister in a Asian cross-cultural context that is shame-based. Check out the promo information on both seminars in this issue. Hope you can attend and take advantage of these opportunities!The testimony articles in this issue were written by two brothers (in Christ) who had two different World Christian journeys. One came to know Jesus at a young age, while the other accepted Christ as a young adult. One is serving full-time as a collegiate and pastoral minister stateside while the other lived overseas and leveraged business as missions. One is Asian-American while the other is Asian-Canadian. However, both share this in common: they each made bold choices to walk by faith in action and obey God at critical junctures. Our journeys may all look different, but World Christian journeys always share the pattern of pressing hard after God's purposes for His glory. I hope you can see this thread woven in all the testimonies we share here.

Blessings,

Esther W.

Editor-in-Chief
estherw@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. (Temple City, 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*

Vieng is a former elementary school teacher and currently a full-time campus minister at UC Berkeley with a campus Christian organization that sprung from the ministry of The Navigators. He also co-pastors a new church plant in Berkeley and studies at a local seminary. Married to Sally for more than four years, the couple resides in the Bay Area.

All for His Glory & the Blessing of the Nations

by Vieng W.

Sovereign foundation ✣ As a Cantonese, Vietnamese, Cambodian Buddhist born and raised in Laos in Southeast Asia, I immigrated to America in 1975 and came to Christ at age eight in Iowa. Later, I moved to L.A. where I attended Avenue 54 Bible Chapel, became involved with EFC (Evangelical Formosan Church) in high school, and then served with The Navigators during my college years at UC Irvine.

Growing up in the 70s and 80s while worshipping at Avenue 54 Bible Chapel, I learned that God greatly desires to save the lost. Missionaries visited and shared with us often, including Christian martyr Jim Elliot in the early 1950s. Faithful believers taught me that: (1) The Bible is God's infallible Word and essential to life; (2) God desires us to live by faith and be faithful witnesses; and (3) of the centrality of Christ and the cross. These lessons greatly shaped me.

Living by faith ✣ In the summer of 1986, the experience as a counselor at my church's youth camp taught me that there was no room for hypocrisy. It was a turning point in my Christian life to "live what I believe", as Amy Grant sang in her well known album at the time, *Age to Age*. This camp site was also where I led my first soul to Christ and discovered that I enjoyed sharing the Gospel and helping others grow spiritually.

Although I knew that I wanted to become a pastor by the end of high school, this plan was delayed when an elder convinced me that Christ made us all priests before God. So I majored in psychology instead and learned to witness to my dorm mates, memorize verses, lead Bible studies, disciple others one-on-one, and grow in my devotion to God and the Word.

At Urbana '90 I stood on the last night and pledged myself to go as a missionary to Southeast Asia someday if God would send me. After graduating college in 1991, I went to East Asia for the first time on a short-term mission with an organization called V-SET (Volunteer Summer English Teachers) and loved it! I also went the following year as a team leader of eight people, teaching conversational English in Northeast Asia and seeking to share Jesus.

Fork in the road ✣ In 1992 while working on my elementary teaching credential at Cal State Long Beach, I did not do well and was asked to retake the student teaching part of the program. I was confused by my circumstances and prayed for confirmation of His will because I had already vowed to God that I would go to the East Coast with my Navigators discipler. God reassured me several

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All for His Glory and Blessings for the Nations

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times that it was His will for me even though my mother was strongly against my not finishing the credential program! From the fall of 1993 and for the next four years, I served as an intern staff for The Navigators at the University of Maryland. In 1997 I returned to California with one of the young men I had discipled to minister as a team at USC.

Times of refining ✣ In 1998 I began to finish my teaching credential and worked as a 5th and 6th grade teacher in Southern California. Due to a lack of accountability, focus, and an abundance of personal weaknesses and temptations, I lived a double life of sin that would spiral downwards until I cried out to God in desperation. In 2003 He delivered me with a breakthrough after the toughest five years of my life. What brought me over was a gracious and merciful God, a faithful loving brother who did not judge or reject me, and professional Christian therapy and recovery groups that equipped me to care for myself, manage temptations, and understand the nature of my addiction.

Renewal and regeneration ✣ During this refining time of my life, I met Sally in my small group at WCC 2002 and began a friendship that lasted several hard years until God freed me from my issue that allowed me to date and marry her. Again, God showed me His faithfulness by giving me a friend who would not quit on me and loved me as I was, "warts and all." God also sent a compassionate pastor and his wife who were among the first Navigators in Korea and missionaries to Southeast Asia for more than 20 years. This pastor nurtured me back to spiritual health and trained me in the context of campus ministry and local church work while I lived in their home for more than a year before my wedding. I quit my teaching job to serve for three years as his assistant English ministry "pastor" at a church in Southern California.

In 2007 Sally and I moved to Northern California to minister to her family. I was hired as a 5th grade teacher in Oakland. However, after six months I was fired for teaching the Bible to my students during lunch time. Although it was a trial for my wife, I sensed deep peace and great joy knowing that God had led me to learn about persecution and standing in faith against adversaries. When the school began to falsely accuse me, God disciplined the school by allowing a major break-in and vandalism the very next day! I saw it as God's answer to prayer and vindication of what I had done. The night before, Sally and I had emailed many Christian friends to pray for us as we asked for justice from God.

God showed his provision in amazing ways and encouraged us not to worry about our finances. A few days after

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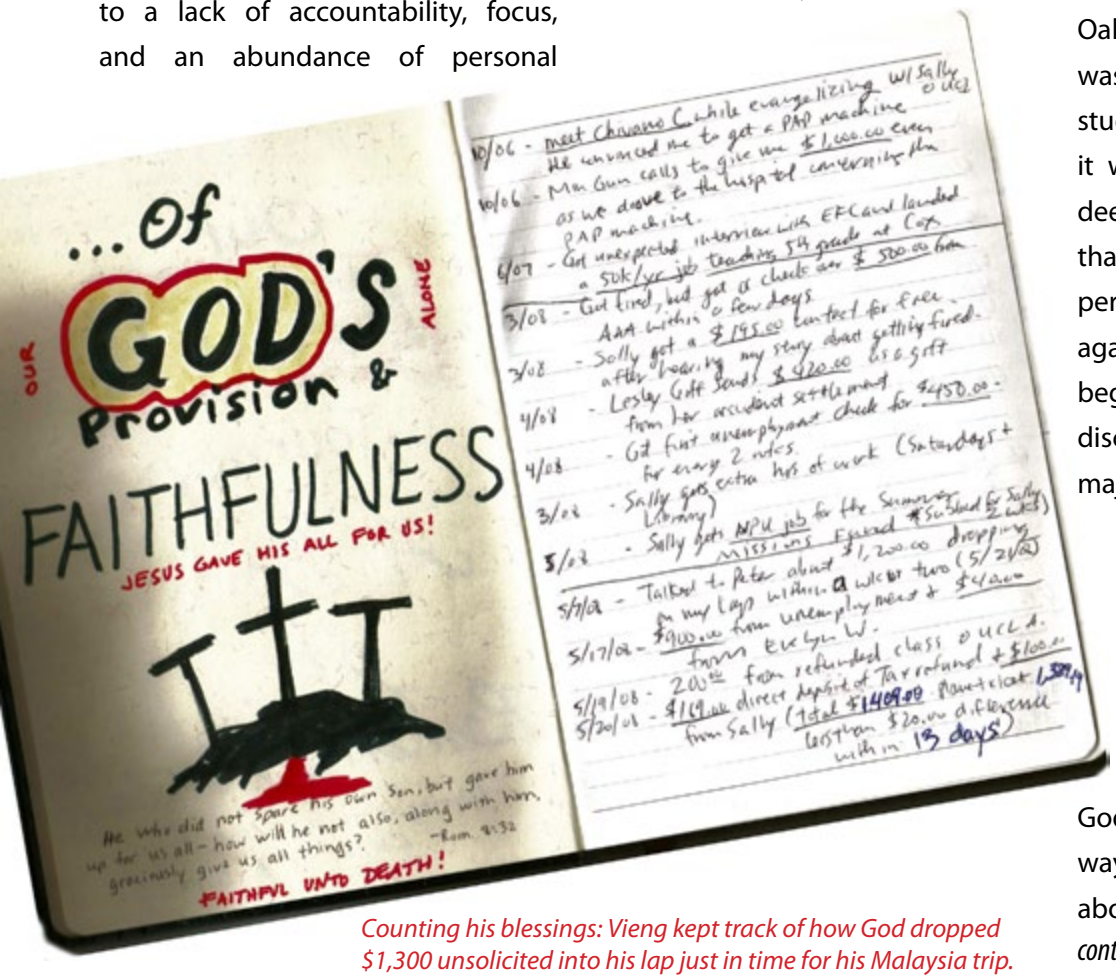

Counting his blessings: Vieng kept track of how God dropped $1,300 unsolicited into his lap just in time for his Malaysia trip.

All for His glory and Blessings for the nations

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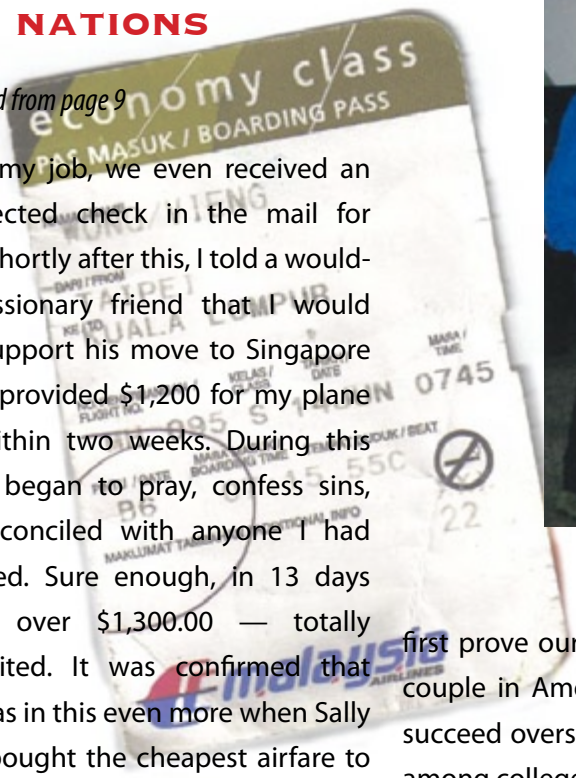

losing my job, we even received an unexpected check in the mail for $500. Shortly after this, I told a would-be missionary friend that I would help support his move to Singapore if God provided $1,200 for my plane fare within two weeks. During this time I began to pray, confess sins, and reconciled with anyone I had offended. Sure enough, in 13 days I had over $1,300.00 — totally unsolicited. It was confirmed that God was in this even more when Sally and I bought the cheapest airfare to Malaysia that was only $20 shy of what we received. We realized that God had given a little more than the exact amount we needed — all by faith and with no one being asked for money. Sally and I knew God was starting an exciting new chapter of serving Him.

"Live what I believe" ✣ In the summer of 2008 I spent three weeks in Malaysia and Singapore meeting with Navigators country leaders to explored whether or not God wanted us as missionaries there. In the end, I believed that it was not God's time yet for us because of two main factors. First, the Navigators leaders required me to raise funds through solicitation which was against my convictions. I wanted to "live by faith" the way George Muller and Hudson Taylor had done. Secondly, I felt convicted that we first prove ourselves as a ministering couple in America as preparation to succeed overseas in making disciples among college students.

WCC 2002: When Vieng met Sally.

When I returned to California, God gave me an idea to work with an old friend from a previous mission trip. He and others had established a Navigators ministry at UC Berkeley in 2003 and desired a teammate with the gift of evangelism. I approached him and he welcomed me as an official staff trainer. My role afforded me the opportunity to mentor and train college students in evangelism and discipleship, to participate in short-term mission trips, and to speak at large group rallies and conferences. By the fall of 2009, we started a new church plant in Berkeley.

Obedience for His glory ✣ These days my vision is still to evangelize, make disciples, and live by faith. My strategy is to raise up college students and young professionals who will surrender their lives to God and the Great Commission as senders or goers to the lost in Southeast Asia or wherever God sends. I have surrendered myself and my family to going or staying and sending as long as God's work is being done. Like King David, God may not allow me to build His temple (going overseas), but I can prepare, gather materials, and help raise up my future "son-in-the-faith" who will build His temple. I know that God is pleased because of the willingness in my heart, as He was pleased with David even though He did not allow him to build the temple. David wanted to bless God and glorify His name, and so do I. As long as we are willing and obedient, we can take part in the exciting adventure of God's work in the world today wherever we live — all for His glory and the blessing of the nations.

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. (Praise God for recently bringing a sister in Christ to coordinate Northern California seminars!) 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.

Grant Writer And Accountant

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 grant writer: help wanted ◆ If God has gifted you with experience and talent in the area of accounting/finance or in 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 one of these two areas. If you are interested in serving as an accountant 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 identifiy 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 third 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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