



Newsletter

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MISSION STATEMENT

Build financial relief for missionaries-in-training and missionaries in the field.
Grow a prayer lifeline to nurture their spiritual, physical and economic needs.

JESUS IS CALLING!

By Talia 2019 Harvesters Scholarship Award Recipient

I grew up in a superstitious environment which sometimes is called folk religion. It is a mix of religious ritual with the occult. My family called themselves Buddhist, while they respected the fortune teller, trusted the dream interpreter, and worshipped the spirits of our ancestors. These resulted in constant fear and worry and it deeply affected me.

I started to think about the meaning of life when I was 18. During that year, I joined a cycling team. Unknown to me, that event would change my destiny. I did not know that they are all Christians until we started the journey. It was the first time that Bible was introduced to me. During the journey, they challenged my worldview and value system on topics like creation, love, sin, and absolute truth. They shared firmly that there is only one true God who is the Creator of the world. I learned that everyone was born with a sinful nature and we must face death. I also discovered God's reconciliatory love.

Those messages were so astonishing to me. Out of my expectation, two sisters continued to come on campus every morning and study the Bible with me. With their help, my old worldview began to collapse, and I received Christ as my Savior and Lord. During my discipleship training, I was beginning legalistic at

first. As I learned more about the Bible and experienced His grace, I was deeply moved by His unconditional love. **"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace."** And **"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable"** (Rom 11:6,29 ESV). I felt that I was accepted by Him not because of my behavior but by my faith.

I was excited with my new identity in Christ. My transformed worldviews and lifestyles were quietly taking root. I started to have the courage in sharing the gospel with strangers. In the past, I tended to protect myself in relationships and didn't know how to love others. With Jesus as an example, I am able to love others with no reservation.

In May 2009, I was baptized. My desire to grow in Him drew me to read and meditate in His Words closely. **"My food is to do that will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work."** (John 4:34 ESV). The best way to mature is through serving Him and be His living testimony. At that same time, the seed of cross-cultural mission was planted in my heart. I have been actively serving in church, on campus and with short-term missions. During a short-term mission trip in 2010, I prayed and dedicated my life to full time cross-cultural ministry.

In 2014, my husband and I were sent to South-Western area in Country C as full time missionaries. With a local Christian minority teacher and a few students, we started a student fellowship and later became a church made up of minority university students and local-residents. God also led me to study the linguistics of minority languages through a cooperative program between SIL and a local university. I learned a lot from the SIL teachers. As a linguistics researcher, it helped me to better understand the minority people's lives. I had done onsite sociolinguistics research and tonal studies in different minority area. With my instructions, partners from my sending organization help us with the sociolinguistics survey. They took every opportunity to observe, study the local culture and build relationships. During home assignments and through sharing, some churches adopted the different minority groups (for example: an UUPG "Unengaged, Unreached, People Group" named Bunu) and supported the field needs. With their supports, we were able to foster some community development programs and run summer study camps for the local children. It opened the door and other long-term missionaries were sent. Surely, it was God who worked among the people. We felt so honor to witness His work among the local.

During the four years of living among and learning from the minorities, we gradually realized that Bibles and evangelism resources in their mother tongues are very important. In the

past, this kind of work was done by missionaries from other countries. Due to increased religious restrictions, many had left. However, they had borne many spiritual fruits among the minorities. It is time for the local churches to take up those responsibilities.

Without knowing how to start a Bible Translation Program and how to train the younger workers, God led me to Dallas International University to learn how to do Bible Translation. After one year of study, my calling is much clearer. I will serve Him by forming a team with the minority believers to do Bible translation into their own languages. Through discipleship, I will also train the local to become missionaries to their own people. Training resources in Country C are not as available. By using what I will learn here to start a Bible translation program in the Bunu people's native language, many Bunu people who still living in darkness will be able to hear the Good News. It is my prayer that I will be able to go back to them and show that God loves them and cares about them in their native language.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Donation \$38,405

Expenses:

Scholarship Distribution \$47,000

Office Expenses \$ 199

Total Expenses \$47,199

Deficit (\$8,794)

Assets:

Cash \$ 45,241

Mutual Fund \$910,947

Total Assets (as of 6/30/2019) \$956,188

Board of Director

Edith Tang President & Co-founder

Rev. John Shiau Vice President

Gilbert Chen Treasurer & Co-founder

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."

John 15:16