

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."

人心中有许多计划，
唯耶和华的旨意成就。

Proverbs 19:21 (ESV)

Hi friends,

I hope you and your loved ones are all healthy and doing well today.

In this update, I was **planning** (key word) to share some good news with you about something we have been working on for the past few months.

For quite some time, we have had a dream to develop a social enterprise business that would operate separate from, but in concert with, the nonprofit organization I (Josh) serve with (CWEF). When I first moved to our current city over 10 years ago, I helped to set up a company for CWEF, which we have used from time to time, but that doesn't really operate as a functioning, profitable business. This year, CWEF's board has set a goal to begin using this company to develop a profitable business/brand that would function as a source of non-donation revenue to support the work of CWEF and the domestic non-profit organizations we have partnered with in recent years. In other words, the proceeds wouldn't benefit any owners or investors, but would be invested back into the rural communities that we seek to serve. There are a couple other thoughts behind this:

- One is that it could provide a certain stability and flexibility that we don't really have with our non-profit. There is always a lingering sense that our local government partners could at any time decide to discontinue support for CWEF or stop approving our work. A non-profit with a foreign faith-based background is quite sensitive here.
- Starting a new for-profit business line would allow us to connect with more people beyond our current community of supporters. We also hope it would create opportunities for new relationships through which we could share JC with more people.

With all this in mind, we were scheduled to run our first "Family Summer Camp" in a beautiful area off the beaten track close to where CWEF does much of its work. John and I were supposed to be on the trip last week, together with four other families. This would have been our first test for this kind of trip, and we were hoping to learn from the experience as a kind of R&D project while we work out the new business model.



Promotional ad for the planned "Family Summer Camp"

And then...Delta variant.

What is happening in much of the world is now also happening here, albeit on a much smaller scale, numbers-wise. The new outbreak started around three weeks ago with several airport workers in the city where Coco went to university, which is just a few hours to the west of us. Now, cases have started to pop up in many places around the country, including Coco's hometown, which is one of the current "hot spots" with several dozen new cases each day. That may not seem like much, but things are different here, and numbers like those call for lockdown measures and mandatory testing for the city's entire population.

Long story short, we had to cancel the family summer camp, which has been disappointing and deflating for our team.

These recent events brought a couple things to mind. The first was something one of our colleagues said during a session of the recent Concordia Mission Institute (CMI), an annual retreat and training program, which we were able to join online:

"He [God] wants to tell us what our goals are."

This quote really stuck with me, as we've been doing quite a bit of dreaming, planning, and goal-setting in recent months. It struck me that a lot more praying and listening is in order.

Another piece of challenging wisdom that recently came to mind are the key lyrics from an old song by Robin Mark:

*"All of my ambitions, hopes, and plans...
I surrender these into Your hands"*

The challenging and comforting truth is that we don't always know what is best, but we do know that we are in His hands, and we can fully trust that He will lead us into the *"the good things He planned for us long ago"* (Ephesians 2:10, NLT).

Join His mission in Asia with us! We would love to partner with you.

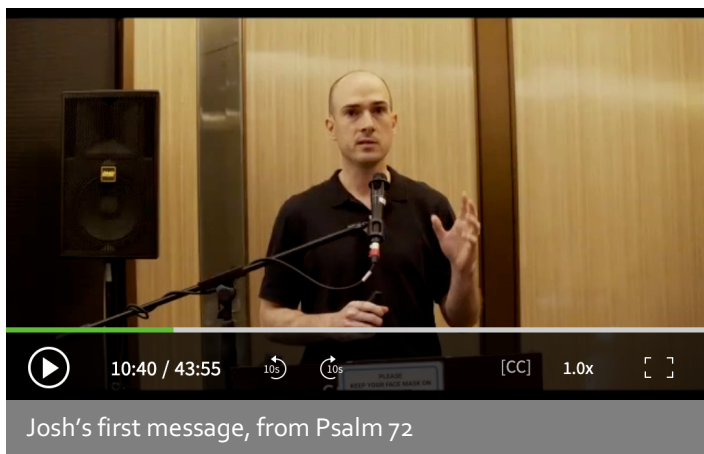
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Questions? Contact: sara.endorf@missionofchrist.org ; (888) 495-9005 ext. 706

NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Our congregation here is an English-speaking fellowship made up of a great mix of local people, foreigners from various countries, and people who are somewhere 'in-between'. They recently asked me to join the speaking team (we don't have any paid staff, all volunteers). There are about 7-8 guys who take turns. My first Sunday was in June, and (as always) God's timing is good – I was invited to give a message on Psalm 72, which is focused on God's vision of justice and mercy for the poor and needy.



In addition to this new opportunity, the congregation also recently asked me to be a part of a group of 7 members that is helping to launch an "outreach grants committee," which will give us a great platform to join JC in what He is doing through various groups in our city, country, and other places around the world. During our first round of grants in July, we were able to enter into prayer and financial partnerships with 20 partner organizations and projects, with grants totaling nearly US\$80,000. What a gift to get to be a part of this!

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Cambodia. Since early spring 2021, there has been an ongoing and escalating outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, and in the past few days we've learned that the more contagious Delta variant has also been detected. In addition, the virus has now spread to the home villages of several of our CWEF team members and local partners, including the village where our teammate Panhary's parents live, and that of Pastor Sareun and his wife, Mrs. Kim Ly, our local partners for the [HEAL](#) program in rural Tboung Khmum province. Please pray for health, safety, and perseverance.

- Our team has also been working to strengthen relationships with a few key people at the provincial education bureau in the southwestern province where CWEF works. The hope and prayer is a healthier and deepening partnership moving toward approval of CWEF's 2022 activity plan for work in this province, to include (God willing) a pilot program focused on training and support for early childhood teachers in rural areas, in addition to our team's ongoing work with rural primary schools to facilitate the HEAL program, which is focused on training local student advocates who will work toward long-term improvements in holistic health in their own communities. Thanks in advance for asking JC for his favor, guidance, and direction over the next few months, as we continue to discuss and plan.
- Praise God for connecting us with a great part-time team member and student interns over the past few months, who have been helping us prepare a refreshed web presence for CWEF -- a new website and WeChat official account are currently in the works.
- Ask Father to prepare Coco for the coming school year, as both kids will be in full-time school for the first time starting in September. For wisdom and direction about which opportunities and relationships to invest in.
- For the Spirit's leading and guiding as Josh prepares for his next message on 2 Timothy 3:10-17 (in early September).
- Pray for faith and courage for CWEF team members - Li Ying, Jenny, Maggie, Kanhchana, Panhary, Buntha, & Renee.
- Continue to ask for the gift of faith for Coco's family, and for physical and mental health, as her hometown and the surrounding area has recently come under a strict lockdown due to recent outbreak of the COVID-19 Delta variant.
- Finally, for Coco and I – pray for an abundance of faith, hope, and love from the Lord and for each other.

Thank you for walking with us as we walk with JC on this adventure of faith. We are so grateful to be your partners in sharing Him and seeing the expansion of His kingdom in Asia.

*In His Love,
Josh & Coco, John & Sophie*

God's Spirit is hard at work, and He has sent us out to partner with Him in His mission. **Would you join us?** We are seeking partners to pray with us for the people He is bringing into our lives. We're also looking for partners to join a growing team of families and congregations who commit to a monthly or annual investment in God's work here in Asia. We currently have 30 partners; our goal is to reach 50. [CLICK HERE](#) to join JC on his mission through with MCN, CWEF, and our family. Thank you!

Join His mission in Asia with us! We would love to partner with you.

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