

June Family、Nation、World Prayer Letter

Church Prayer Monthly- 2018 June

June

Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.
(1 John 3:9)



基督教柏斯宣道会
Perth Alliance Church

Become a True Disciple, For the Glory of God

Become a True Church, Establish True Mission

P r a y e r l e t t e r
m o n t h l y

English

1 /6	F R I	The South Mandarin discipleship training camp will be held from 01/06 to 03/06, ask God to bless Ps. Victor and his wife with good preparation, and pray that God will use them to lead the 5 students and 2 assistants with the help of the Holy Spirit, to experience Him this weekend. (S.Mand DT Camp)
2 /6	S A T	The South Church have agreed to launch a three-year fundraising campaign to raise \$550,000, to enable the possible purchase or building of 39 Keane St. The owner of 39 Keane St has recently approached the church again with an offer to sell, and the elders are in the process of negotiating an acceptable price. There will be a further EGM on 3rd June 2018 to agree to make an offer to purchase 39 Keane St, please pray for wisdom for the Board of Elders and the members of the South Church. (South property purchase)
3 /6	S U N	South Mandarin will commence their bible study on the book of Acts from the 06/06, pray that brothers and sisters will have a life changing experience and that they may be built up in the word of God. (S.Mand bible study)
4 /6	M O N	Ps. Thomas has just received his blood test result: tumour index had reduced to 5.1 ug/l, the doctor said this is almost at normal level. But his liver needs to get better, please ask God to continue to heal his liver and bring his index to 2.5, which is a normal level. Continue to pray that the tumours in his liver and the cancer cells in other parts of his body will shrink and be eliminated miraculously! (Ps. Thomas)
5 /6	T U E	North Mandarin is planning to start another bible study after the discipleship training, ask the holy spirit to encourage brothers and sisters to join, and to seek growth. (N.Mand bible study)
6 /6	W E D	Pray for High School students and University students sitting mid-year exams and completing assessments this month. Pray that they will be diligent and will trust in their heavenly Father to be their refuge and strength during this stressful time. (Students in exam times)
7 /6	T H U	South Cantonese started their family cell group movement back in April, with every brother or sister involved in a family cell group. Every cell group is composed by members from different back ground/age/fellowship, there are 3 meetings in total this year, and they already had one meeting. Please continue to pray for this, may it stimulate interaction between members of the congregation. (S. Cant small groups)
8 /6	F R I	We will finish discipleship training at the end of June, there will be a retreat held for it from 15/06 to 17/06. Please pray that the rest of the course will run smoothly and for the planning of the retreat. Pray also for a group of disciples who are pleasing to God. (N.Mand DT retreat)
9 /6	S A T	Please pray for the office staff, ask God to bless them with wisdom, so that they can prioritise their work load and have better communication with our pastors, pray that they may be quick to adapt to change in ministry and be flexible to cope with urgent matters. (Office staffs)
10 /6	S U N	Pray for the City of Belmont Mayoral Prayer Breakfast on 15 th June. Pray for the speaker Mark Godfrey and participation of representatives from a wide range of sectors in the Belmont community. May the event lead to more ways for the churches to engage constructively with the community of Belmont for the sake of the gospel. (Belmont mayor prayer breakfast)
11 /6	M O N	

12 /6	T U E	Please pray for the mentoring program for studying young adults, there are 6 trainees for this program at the moment. Ask God to use this one on one care and training program to prepare mentors for the studying young adults and that they may be able to seek and serve God together. (S.Cant Mentor training)
13 /6	W E D	Give thanks for the cell group for mature members in South Mandarin, they are studying the bible together, sharing and keeping each other in prayer via WeChat. They are also making house visits to those who are ill. Please pray for these people, that God will keep their body and spirit healthy. (S.Mand cell group Joy)
14 /6	T H U	The Bible and Hymns are both vital parts of a disciple's growth, ask the Holy Spirit to bless us with spirits of praising songs, so that brothers and sisters will love to listen and sing praises to God and give praise to God naturally. (N.Cant singing hymns)
15 /6	F R I	Pray for Rolf and Fred who are joining the Soul Care Conference (organized by the Alliance) in Sydney on 28 May to 1 June. Pray for fruitful time of learning and being ministered to. May it also be helpful in equipping them to effectively minister to others back in Perth. (Rolf and Fred in Soul care conference)
16 /6	S A T	Please pray for the newly formed music worship teams A B C and D, that they will learn to collaborate in unity to lead the congregation to open up their voice and heart to worship God. (N.Cant Worship)
17 /6	S U N	Pray for the partners of our members who are not yet Christian, Ask God to use the brothers or sisters to be a wonderful witness to our God for their partners, let them be drawn to Lord Jesus to believe in Him and be saved. (North unbelieving partners)
18 /6	M O N	Ask God to give strength to Ps. Kevin, Catherine, and Philip. Pray that He will bless them in their work, family life and bodily health. Pray that they will be in tune with the Spirit to lead brothers and sisters to serve God together. (S.Cant leaders)
19 /6	T U E	Pray for Rolf and Sylvia, ask God for wisdom and insights in developing a culture of outreach for PACE, to help members be more intentional and natural in evangelism in their day-to-day life. (S.Eng outreach)
20 /6	W E D	Apart from monthly bible studies, the north Cantonese cell groups are all planning for outreach and visitation opportunities or gender specified fellowships, to keep each other accountable in practising what they've learned in one on one mentoring, to influence each other's lives! (N.Cant cell groups)
21 /6	T H U	Please pray for the youth group in south Mandarin, ask God to keep the hearts of these youth from straying from the way of the Lord. (S.Mand youth group)
22 /6	F R I	Pray for the upcoming Baptism Service and our baptism candidates: Hope Chen, Vincent Leung, Jeffrey Chau, Nathan Zhou. Pray that their love for Jesus continues to grow, they might be well disciplined in 1-1 relationships, that their faith will grow stronger day by day. May God give the candidates boldness and passion to invite their non-Christian friends to join the celebration, so that they too can witness the transformation of Jesus' work in their lives, as well as to connect with the PACE community. (S.Eng baptism)

23 /6	S A T	Pray for cell group harmony (Led by Joey and Joyce) and Success (Lead by Angus Li and Ophelia). Pray that God may bless them in their work, family life and bodily health, that they may be in tune with the Spirit to lead brothers and sisters to serve God together. (S.Cant CG serving team)
24 /6	S U N	Pray that God will raise a core team for North English church planting. Pray that these members will be united in one spirit and work collaboratively. (N.Eng Planting)
25 /6	M O N	Pray for new friends, ask God to help them to find their place in church life, and enjoy it so that they might get to know Christ as their personal saviour! (New friends)
26 /6	T U E	Give thanks for the existing 1-1 discipleship relationships in PACE. Pray for commitment, perseverance and joy to set aside time regularly to meet up. Pray that both parties involved are encouraged, and that God grows these relationships in Christ. Pray that these relationships will continue to multiply, so that the culture of discipleship can be fostered solidly. (S.Eng Discipleship)
27 /6	W E D	Please pray for the south Mandarin family camp on 24/12-26/12. It will also be an English youth camp. Please pray for the planning and organizing committee. Please also pray that brothers and sisters will be encouraged to attend. (S.Mand Camp)
28 /6	T H U	North Mandarin is planning a camp in March next year, ask God to lead us in the planning process. (N.Mand Camp next year)
29 /6	F R I	South Cantonese is planning on a short term mission trip (STM) in December to the Interior Division of Sabah Malaysia. A total of 15 brothers and sisters will be attending. Pray that God will equip them for this STM in the next 7 training sessions, help the team to get to know each other. Pray that they will be able to know and experience God better. (S.Cant STM)
30 /6	S A T	Please pray for Ps. Thomas, he had a consultation on 12/06 as he finished the first course of treatment. He had a full body PET Scan which will determine the state of the tumors in his body as well as the cancer cells. Pray that the doctor will have wisdom to decide the next step of treatment! (Ps. Thomas)



Prayer Letter
OMF International

June 2018

A Missional Perspective on Tibetan Culture and Religion

Those who have ministered among Tibetans often quote Hudson Taylor regarding the work in Tibet: "To make converts in Tibet is similar to going into a cave and trying to rob a lioness of her cubs." If we consider that western missionary influence began with Francis Xavier (1506-1552), there has now been over 400 years of work in East Asia. Churches have been planted in Korea, Japan and the central plains of China, where Confucianism and northern Buddhism were strong. Many churches have also been planted in Thailand, Myanmar and Indochina, where animism and southern Buddhism held sway. By contrast, people living in Tibetan Buddhist areas have been very resistant to the gospel. Why is it so difficult to plant churches in Tibetan Buddhist areas? What are the obstacles for Tibetans to believe in Jesus?

Tibetan Buddhism has its roots in India and is combined local Bon shamanism. Tibet is described as "the roof of the world" because of the high Tibetan Plateau. It has a rich history that rivals the Tang Dynasty in China. The Tubo Empire encompassed the current area of Tibet as well as parts of Nepal and India.

A Tibetan cannot imagine life without Tibetan Buddhism. It is a vital part of life for the Tibetan, and was the cornerstone upon which the Tubo Empire was founded. In the 7th century, the Tubo king married a princess from the Tang Dynasty; he also sent officials to India to study so they could create a script for the Tibetan language. In doing so, he facilitated the translation of major parts of the Sanskrit into Tibetan, laying a foundation for the formation of a theocracy in the process.

As Tibetan Buddhism has passed from generation to generation, the doctrine of reincarnation has become embedded in the minds of Tibetans. They consider this life is a preparation for the next one. At the same time, Tibetan Buddhism teaches that everything has a spirit, and one has to fear the spirits. As a result, shrines are

set up everywhere for people to worship night and day, with prayer flags, prayer wheels, and prayer beads readily accessible.

Tibetan Buddhism is divided into four main sects. The first is the Yellow sect which is the largest with the most influence. A second sect is Lamaism: this was made popular by the Mongols, because a Mongol general who adhered to this sect was influential at the time of the Mongol empire. As the empire expanded westward to Europe, so did Lamaism.

With this history in mind, we understand that there are two major questions with which Christians must wrestle.

1. Mantras are one key to Tibetan Buddhism. This was especially important for Mongol devotees. Two examples of this are the “Six word truth”, and the “Hail to the jewel in the Lotus”. Reciting these mantras is believed to invoke the blessings of Chenrezig, the embodiment of compassion that is incarnate in the Dalai Lama. Various mantras were introduced to Confucian areas in Asia, but they were not so well received in those contexts. However, in shamanistic Tibet mantras came to occupy a central place in people’s worldview. Looking at the mantras in written form is also thought to be beneficial, so they are often carved on stones called Marnyi Stones, and placed where people can see them. This is one way Tibetan Buddhists access divine blessings. So the question for us is: how can the gospel be introduced to, and understood by Tibetans who seek to access the spiritual world through reading and reciting mantras?

2. Tibetan religious life emphasizes ritual practices. We can observe Tibetan worshippers chanting the “Six word truth“ mantra and prostrating themselves on the ground (the “five body parts to the ground” doctrine) as they pursue their pilgrimage to the Lhasa Jokhang Temple. This is a “once in a life-time” pilgrimage, but many other ritual practices are important in the everyday lives of Tibetans. These rituals need to be conducted in local Buddhist temples, of which the Larung Gar Five Sciences Buddhist Academy in Sichuan is one important example. At its height, over 30,000 monks and students attended this Academy (see photo below).



(Continued on page 7)

Prayer Points

June 2018

1 Today is International Children's Day. Please pray for ministries to children; in recent months, some Sunday schools have been forced to close down. Teachers were sent home and the classrooms taken to be used for other purposes. Please pray for the teachers and children who are affected by this.

2 China prints the largest number of Bibles in the world, but has now started restricting their sale. Please pray that churches will continue to grow, in spite of many changes over the past few months.

3 The traditional definition of "Tibetan people" refers to the original inhabitants of the Tibetan Plateau who follow Tibetan Buddhism. "Tibetan areas" refers to places where Tibetan people live and speak Central, Khampa or Amdo Tibetan. However, the Chinese government definition of "Tibetan areas" refers only to the Tibet Autonomous Region. Please pray for God's blessing on Tibetan peoples wherever they are dispersed throughout China.

4 Pray for various ministries to Tibetan people groups – work among them is demanding and often unrewarding in terms of their response to the gospel.

5 Quoting Mr. Huan Xiang, President of the State Council Research Institute for International Issues, "Of the six million Tibetans in China, only two million reside in the Tibet Autonomous Region." (see *Beijing Review*, February 1988). Tibet is no longer the main area where Tibetans in China live; many live among other people groups, including the Han. This has actually made it more possible for Chinese churches to reach out to them - pray that their ministries will be fruitful.

6 Expatriate workers doing ministry among Tibetans in Qinghai province are facing difficulties getting visas. Pray that God will open doors for ministry and prosper the work of their hands.

7 College entrance exams are being held from June 7th – 9th. An estimated ten million high school students will take this exam. Please pray for these students in a highly competitive environment. Many choose to stay in a school dormitory in order to prepare well. Pray for Christian students, that they will experience the Lord's presence during this stressful time.

8 According to recent statistics, only a small percentage of Tibetan students sit for the college entrance exam. By contrast, among young people registering for religious education, Tibetan students are the highest percentage. Please pray for Tibetan young people, and pray that God will call Christian teachers to work in Tibetan areas.

9 The so-called “straight A” top students enjoy all kinds of privileges because of their excellent academic performance. This cultural attitude generates twisted thinking and wrong behavior among students. May the Lord protect Christian students, granting them discernment, wisdom and grace as they seek to stand up for God’s truth in this difficult environment.

10 After taking their college entrance exams, there are often reports of students going wild or even committing suicide. Please pray for Christian students, their families and pastors - that the students will receive encouragement and wise guidance.

11 There is also a national middle school final exam. In Beijing, this exam will be held from June 24th – 26th. Middle school students stay at home to prepare for this exam, so Christian parents and church friends can continue

to help them during this time. Many Sunday schools have been discontinued, so pray that God will help these young people stand firm in their faith.

12 In recent years, quite a large number of Christian primary and middle schools have been set up. However, current education law forbids graduates from these Christian schools participating in the middle school final exam. May the Lord overrule in these difficult circumstances and help these students to learn and develop well.

13 Some middle schools provide an English or bilingual curriculum to prepare graduates to study abroad. Many of the students at these schools choose not to participate the middle school final exam. Some of them are from Christian families, so pray that they may depend on God’s provision and follow His guidance.

14 A few years ago, the government opened up “Hope primary and middle schools”. The aim was to encourage Tibetan children, and those from other minority groups, to attend Han schools. However, most Tibetan families declined this “goodwill plan”, for fear of Sinicization. The government has not trained enough primary school teachers to teach in

minority languages, and this seriously impacts non-Han students. Please pray for improvements in the educational opportunities for these minority students.

15 Pray that the Lord will call more Han Chinese Christians to cross-cultural educational work. Pray for strength and grace as they learn minority languages, and willingness to serve God by educating the next generation of minority children.

16 Please pray for a Tibetan Christian who is married to a Han woman. He is working at a Tibetan school in his home town. It has not been easy for them these past few years but they are persevering. May the Lord encourage them and strengthen their hands as they serve Him in difficult circumstances.

17 Some Han Christians, sent by their home church, set up a privately-owned orphanage in a Tibetan area. They tried to be accepted by the local Tibetans, but these locals were suspicious of them. The orphanage building was destroyed by fire, but thank God that He protected the teachers and children from harm. Since the building can no longer be used, pray that the Lord will guide these Han Christians as they consider what direction their future ministry should take.

18 Pray for Han churches in Tibetan areas. They would like to invite Tibetans to join their church activities, but this is a sensitive and difficult thing to do. May the Lord grant them wisdom as they seek for ways to reach out to their Tibetan neighbors.

19 Please pray for a Tibetan Christian who has been worshipping in a Han church for several years. He cannot disclose his Christian faith to his relatives and friends. May the Lord strengthen Tibetan Christians and help them stand firm in their faith. Pray that their relatives and friends may see Christ's beauty demonstrated in their lives.

20 Please remember Han Christians who have a heart to reach out to Tibetans. They often feel helpless and puzzled about how to do this. They also need wisdom balancing work and family responsibilities. May the Lord's presence give them strength and joy in challenging circumstances.

21 Some Chinese Christians have been sent out by their churches to do outreach to Tibetans in Nepal and other countries. While political pressures there may be less than in China, they encounter many cross-cultural challenges. May the Lord grant unity in these teams and fruitful ministries.

22 A new government publication - "Policy and practice for guaranteeing freedom of religious belief in China" – states that there are 38 million Christians in China, representing 60% growth since 2010. But other scholarly publications tell a different story. Whatever the actual numbers, we continue to pray that the Lord will build His church, both numerically and in terms of spiritual maturity.

23 The above government publication does not mention the number of Tibetan Buddhists in China. It recognizes one Tibetan Buddhist school, but the development of Tibetan Buddhism is unknown and unreported. Pray that the Lord will raise up more workers to reach out to the six million Tibetan Buddhists in China.

24 It is now the season for short-term missions, and Chinese churches are preparing to send out teams. May these teams experience God's presence and strength, and be a blessing wherever they go.

25 The time for planning summer camps is also here. In the current circumstances, this may prove to be more difficult than usual. Pray for God's rich blessing on all of these camps.

26 Please remember an annual camp for children with disabilities and their parents. The organizer of this camp is not sure whether it can go ahead this year. May the Lord grant him and his team wisdom as they make decisions about this.

27 Please remember foreign teachers who have been invited to participate at various camps. Pray for wisdom as they partner with local believers.

28 Wealthy Chinese families often arrange overseas trips during the summer. In response to the more restrictive local situation, some Christian families are organizing camps overseas. Pray that God will guide and protect their planning and preparation.

29 About this time, high school graduates will receive letters of acceptance from overseas universities. They need to apply for visas and prepare to leave home. May the Lord protect Christian students who plan to study overseas and lead them to good churches where they can grow spiritually.

30 Summer holidays are about to start for middle and primary school students. May God grant them pleasant and safe holidays, and bless Christian families as they have opportunities to spend more time together.

(Continued from page 2)

From this picture, we can see how hard it is to reach this temple; it towers 12,139 feet above sea level. The temple itself is surrounded by cabins built by the students. They live simple lives and adhere to a vegetarian diet. Even though the government has torn down many of these cabins, Tibetans continue to go there month after month, year after year – such is the importance of these religious activities.

Not far from the above academy, there is a school for Tibetan Buddhist nuns. It is located in a plain over 13,000 feet above sea level. It is encircled by a river that has created an island. This is where we can find the greatest number of Tibetan Buddhist nuns (see picture below).



The nuns must carry wood and other materials to build their cabins, just like their male counterparts.

These two large temples and their adherents in Sichuan give us a glimpse into Tibetan life and the practice of Tibetan Buddhism. So our second question is: how do we demonstrate the gospel in practice? How can we communicate the truth that Jesus has accomplished salvation for us, and that this does not depend on our “good works”?

As we consider what ministry amongst Tibetans might be effective, we can reflect on the words of Sadhu Sundar Singh in the early 20th century. He said: “There is nothing so perfect in the world as to be quite above objection and criticism. The very sun which gives us light and warmth is not free from spots, yet notwithstanding these defects it does not desist from its regular duty. It behooves us in like manner to carry on to the best of our ability what has been entrusted to us, and strive constantly to make our lives fruitful.” (*At the Master's feet*, 1922)

In terms of reaching Tibetans, no matter how great the challenges may be, Christians need to press on faithfully and pray that their lives might bear fruit. Let us pray fervently that His kingdom will come among the Tibetan people.

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