

Unclogged

WORK OF THE SPIRIT



MISSION OF CHRIST
NETWORK TEAM

FAMILY



Clogged

noun

- 1 to hinder or obstruct with thick or sticky matter; choke up:
- 2 to crowd excessively, especially so that movement is impeded; overfill::

The Gospel is powerful. I love the idea of the Gospel being spoken to a person and their immediate conversion to belief in their Savior. And, this is not just an idea. It really happens. More often than not, however, I've seen this be a process that works over time as a person's heart softens and they become aware of God at work in their life. In this case, it is remarkable how this moment of conversion is a bit more like a drain clog.

The acts of God in this person's life and all those witnessing of God's word and power have backed up behind the self-control and self-righteousness of the person. When they become aware of Jesus' presence all of the blockage suddenly moves through and those words and works become a flow of blessing that they are aware of and for which they share their praise to God. Don't despair if you feel like you've shared the love of Jesus with someone already for a long time and they don't seem to be understanding that love in their life - Jesus has not given up on them and your continued care and proclamation is God working in their life to remove the blockage and open them to the blessing of faith. *And it shall be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way."* *Isaiah 57:14*



Recruitment Help

Taran and I had fun helping out with one of the Lutheran kindergarten recruitment days recently.

Demographics in Hong Kong are challenging for these ministries, as the number of children from mainland has decreased due to COVID restrictions. We had fun pretending to be farmers and playing with the little children and the BIG ball!

To provide financial support for this ministry, please send your gift to:

Mission of Christ Network*
P.O. Box 533
Concordia, Missouri 64020
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Hong Kong Updates

Hong Kong is finally starting to step back from the strict COVID protocols that have been in place. Arriving travelers continue to be COVID-tested at the airport, with isolation required once a person tests positive. However, since October, hotel quarantine is no longer required, and the home quarantine is shortened to a modified three days, with some ability to go outside during that time. We still wear masks to go anywhere and we need to take a COVID test every morning to go to school. I caught COVID in late August and was required to stay in my bedroom for 10 days until I tested negative. The border is still closed for people like us, and that is a challenge for our support to activities there. Everyone is feeling fatigue and frustration with these regulations, so we invite your prayers for the government to feel comfortable with unclogging these restrictions.

Ministry Updates

In the late spring I received an unexpected request to step in to a part-time teaching role for grade 7 & 8 middle school students' New Testament class for the current academic year. I have just under 160 students that I'll be teaching during the year. I've never served as a classroom teacher before, so this has been a huge adjustment. It is very different to walk into a classroom for chapels and single lesson teaching, as I have in the past, than to teach the same students for the entirety of a course. Ever since being asked to support the Global Pedagogical Network for Reformation in 2015, I've sensed that God was preparing me for this direction. This is only a single year role as the previous instructor moved into a different position at the end of the school year. In response to this call to serve in this role, I signed up for an online master's program in education with Concordia University Ann Arbor and am blessed to use my teaching hours this year to complete the teaching certification. Honestly, it's all a lot of work, but I'm learning so much and am becoming a much more effective educator. I look forward to continuing to apply this learning in years to come. Meanwhile, I continue teaching Mandarin-speaking adults, helping a Cantonese Secondary School with the English language devotions and videos, serving as a resource to our other MCN missionary in Hong Kong, and supporting other requests as they arise from our partners in The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod.

Prayers

- Thanksgiving for Michael and Yan's arrival in Hong Kong. Prayers for paperwork and logistics to work out for their continued travel to the destination of their service.
- For continued easing of policies related to COVID spread so that more fellowship activities can resume.
- For my students, that their hearts and minds are open to the message of Jesus' love for them in the New Testament.
- For my studies, that I pass my certification exams and keep up with the coursework and daily classroom teaching.
- For the Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of the women studying the New Testament with me, that they would know the message of Christ for them.
- Thanksgiving for Eliada's return to university study and her recent promotion at the restaurant where she works in St. Louis.

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