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Ministry Newsletter

May 5, 2014 - Vol. XVI, No. 5

In This Issue

Devotion by Dr. David Eckman: "Christian Improvement"

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BWGI Speaking Schedule

Please be praying for God's blessing on the following upcoming events:

May 1, 2014
National Day of Prayer Breakfast
San Jose City Hall Rotunda
200 East Santa Clara Street

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your prayers for us as we traveled this month. The Lord richly blessed our trip to Beijing and other places. Usually we are able to build a "travel recovery day" into our schedule to allow us some rest before we begin teaching. However, this time our formal duties began almost immediately. After landing and eating breakfast, we were driven directly to our assigned classrooms, where we connected with our interpreters and began our classes. For the next three days, Dr. Lilia Salazar taught seminars on the subjects of attachment disorders and small group therapy; Dr. Doris Arrington gave classes on Art Therapy (Advanced); and Geoffrey Cheng, M.Div., and I conducted sessions on the emotional life of students and patterns of healthy communication which were based on the Skills for Living curriculum. On this trip there were about fifty students in each class. According to my rough calculations, over the last five years more than 1,500 mental health workers from the Beijing universities have taken courses from us.

Team Dinner with Counselors and Department Heads
Bottom Row: Dr. Lilia Salazar, Dr. Eckman, Professor Lin, Dr. Arrington and Gayle (translator)
Top Row: Gayle Encarnacion, Geoffrey Cheng, Anya Lin (translator) and Robert Arrington (third from right)

San Jose, CA 95113
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Gary Hess

May 1-4, 2014
Walk to Emmaus
Gilroy Presbyterian Church
6000 Miller Avenue
Gilroy, CA 95020
408-842-3000
Cathy Stambaugh

May 3 and 4, 2014
Missions Conference
Valley Community Church
4455 Del Valle Parkway
Pleasanton, CA 94566
925-846-6622
Bill Lauer and the BWGI Team

May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2014
The Villages Community Chapel
Cribari Auditorium
2500 Villages Parkway, Suite E
San Jose, CA 95135
408-238-3079
Morning Service: 10:00 a.m.
David Eckman

May 7, 2014
The Stanford Chinese Scholars
The Soulfood Family Ministry
Menlo Park Presbyterian Church
Building D
950 Santa Cruz Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
David Eckman

May 16, 2014
BWGI Webinar
Note: Permanent Date Change
To THIRD Wednesday of the Month
Topic: "The DNA of the Fall"
Click Here
7:00 p.m. Pacific time
8:00 p.m. Mountain time
David Eckman and Tim Rule

"Healthy Emotions" Seminar at Central University of Finance and Economics

After the rigorous, three-day seminar experience, Dr. Salazar returned to California, Dr. Arrington and her husband, Robert, traveled to DaMing to do a workshop at the orphanage on trauma and art therapy treatment, and I had the opportunity to share the Sunday morning pulpit with Pastor John Davis at Beijing International Christian Fellowship. Although I do not have enough space to write about the particulars here, I also had an important meeting with Professor Lin. I look forward to sharing more about that with you in the next newsletter.

Co-Preaching at BICF where people from over 70 nations attend every Sunday

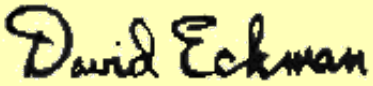
Some of us then went on to another city by bullet train where we were met by BR who shares the vision of the Back to Jerusalem Movement (BJT). The goal of this movement is to send 100,000 missionaries across China's borders via the historic, 4,000-mile Silk Route to Jerusalem in order to complete the Great Commission. BR proved to be extremely helpful and I am impressed with the cause he has embraced. He has a tremendous breadth of knowledge and fervor for this cause. On another note, BR introduced me to leaders ofindependent believers. I spent two rewarding nights teaching them, and their response was positive and enthusiastic. Subsequently, they asked me to consider being the director of an institute with the purpose of preparing

workers. Although I declined their gracious offer, I told them I would act as a consultant and assist with program development.

In another place, I also had the pleasure of meeting a dear friend of mine, Dr. Rex. He is working with an organization that is enhancing its program and scheduling trainers. Along with Dr. Rex, I met with the CEO and some staff. Incredibly, they asked me to help do the same thing for them that I had just agreed to do for the other group. Dr. Rex and I will meet this summer to flesh out particulars.

The greatest purpose of God in creation is to extend the life of God into the life of humanity. Because of the grace of God and your partnership, prayers and funding, a new generation bears the identity and righteousness of the Son. May God's special blessing be upon you as you carry on your individual ministry at home and in the work place.

Your co-laborer in Christ,



David Eckman

It Is Easy To Contribute

Isn't it thrilling to be used by God? I praise Him for you, for our shared vision and for the Spirit who works through us. Consistent prayer and contributions fuel our world-wide mission to reach others for Christ. Thanks to you, the Lord used BWGI in amazing ways in 2013.
Please click this link to help us keep up the momentum in 2014.

Quick Links

Value-based Family Life Educationcurriculum and power point files for Dr. Eckman's Beijing Project trainees to download.

Immersion Experience
bringing spiritual, emotional, and relational health back to God's people.

Creekside Church: Listen to and watch a sermon and Sunday School series at Creekside Church by David Eckman

Berkely F.A.T. Sheep: Listen to Dr. Eckman teach on "What Christianity is Not"

"Christian Improvement"
By Dr. David Eckman

The Christian's Heavenly future is a wonderful reality, beginning with that magnificent moment when Jesus returns for his own.

> 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
> 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.
> 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.
> 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory.
> . . .
> 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1Cor 15:51-58)

The biblical use of the word mystery differs from our usual understanding of the word; a biblical mystery is

something that has been previously hidden but is now revealed. For example, in Romans 16:25 Paul wrote, ".... revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past." The fact that the Messiah would return from Heaven to take living believers with Him into the Heavens was not revealed in the Old Testament nor was it revealed clearly in the Gospels (although it was implied in John 14:1-3). However, this hope of being taken from Earth to Heaven has now been revealed to us and is imminent, meaning it can happen at any time. We can live in the expectation that our bodies will be transformed to be like Christ's resurrected, glorious body. We will meet our blessed Redeemer! We will be ushered into the presence of the Father where we will enjoy the relationships of Heaven. Nothing can improve on that.

It is with this glorious future in mind that Paul instructs the believers to persevere in their faith and in their service for the Lord. We are encouraged to remain faithful as we endure the hard work of life, waiting for the improvement that the rapture of the church will bring. We need not delay improvement of our immediate future until the rapture, though! Our immediate future can be profoundly transformed through a loving response to God the Father in this present life.

> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Rom 8:28)

God the Holy Spirit and God the Son are interceding for us to the Father, and the Father wants us to have spiritually rich and effective lives. Romans 8:28 tells us that we are involved in the Father's elective eternal plan, part of which bases our effectiveness and blessing in this life on our response to his love. We can help this process by responding to his love with our love. Jesus and the Father are in a reciprocal love relationship: they keep responding to each other's affection and loving actions. Good friendships and healthy marriages are reflections of this reciprocal relationship. Neither party worries about initiating such actions because they spontaneously do loving things for each other. This is how God desires us to relate to Him as well.

The believer's future truly is marvelous: as we respond to God's love with our love, the immediate future of our spiritual lives continually improves, and NOTHING can improve on our Heavenly future!

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