

surprise personally strengthened my faith. Another waiter had worked in a Sydney restaurant years ago and had already known about RMI. At that time, one of our preachers (now deceased) had led a Bible study with him in the Hurstville area. Although he has not yet believed in Christ, he greatly appreciates our work. I hope that this time, he realizes that God has not given up on him and that he will accept the Lord's salvation soon.

Another experience was with the owner of a beverage shop. She admitted to being a Christian but had stopped going to church after immigrating to Brisbane. Seeing our passion in traveling all the way from Sydney for outreach inspired her to ask about church information, expressing a desire to return to the Lord's house. Her faith was reignited. When we visited again, she expressed her gratitude and said she would definitely return to church and reconnect with God. This experience deeply made me realize that God's love and guidance are everywhere! I want to be a tool in His hands, helping more people who have left the church to return to God's embrace.

Anthony Ng



THIS SHORT-TERM MISSION involved visiting a different shopping center almost every day, reaching out to restaurants in the malls. Unlike before, where we had to drive 5-10 minutes to reach a restaurant (allowing some rest between visits), this time, due to the high concentration of restaurants, the frequency of Gospel contacts was intense. After each three to four-hour outreach session, everyone was visibly tired. After a short break in the afternoon, we would set out again in the evening.

Thank the Lord for His guidance. This time, the resources, itinerary, and cooperation among teammates were quite smooth. In addition to pre-planning and personal commitment, the prayers of RMI members were indispensable. Through the daily morning devotions, God's word drew each team member closer to Him, making us more willing to follow Jesus' example and giving us a deeper love for people's souls, which strengthened our efforts in the outreach.

I am grateful to have been part of this short-term mission. May the Lord establish the work done by the mission team so that the seeds we have sown will soon grow and bear fruit, bringing glory to the Lord.

Pastor Leon Lai

Restaurant Mission Incorporated

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Opening hours: Monday to Friday (exclude public holidays)
10:30am - 4:00pm (12 to 1pm Lunch break)

Worship Service: Tuesday 5:30pm - 6:45pm
(Dinner and Bible study groups after Service)

Website: www.restaurantmission.org.au

PRAYER POINT

1. Pray for the follow-up work of the local church after the August short-term mission in Brisbane. May the Lord nurture the seeds of the Gospel that have begun to sprout, allowing them to continue to grow strong.
2. Pray for the Mandarin ministry, asking the Lord to give strength and wisdom to the co-workers involved, and to continue expanding this vast harvest field.
3. Pray for the "Sisters' Group" and "Men's Fellowship." May the Lord not only build up the brothers and sisters who have come to faith but also reach out to more friends in the food industry who have not yet believed..



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RMI News

September 2024

Greetings in Christ:

May God's grace always be with you.

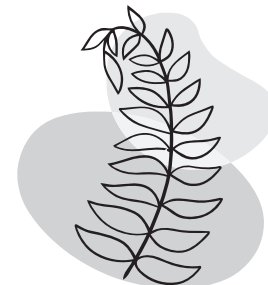
THE 9-DAY SHORT-TERM MISSION for the restaurant industry in Brisbane has been completed. A local church has taken on the follow-up work, and we believe it will bear the fruit of the gospel. Our team of six set out from Sydney, with two members participating in a short-term mission for the first time. Throughout the mission, we contacted 154 people and distributed 273 gospel gift bags. Forty-five individuals expressed a desire to learn more about the gospel. Below are the team members' testimonies to share with you all.

RMI has begun, and in response to the needs of the team and outreach work, the "Sisters Group" and "Men's Fellowship" have been established to help strengthen the spiritual growth of believers and lead the restaurant workers to hear the gospel. The ministry is progressing steadily; we pray the Lord uses it to help believers grow and bring more people to Christ. During this short-term mission, we noticed that more than 80% of the workers we encountered spoke Mandarin. We pray that God will raise up the Sydney Mandarin-speaking ministry and move more people to participate, so that the gospel may spread even more widely.

We are grateful for your continued support, prayers, and participation, which have allowed the gospel to continue to be shared among this unreached group. May we press on together toward the goal, to the glory of the Lord's name!

In Christ

Rev Stephen Li



- Mission Sharing -

HEARING THAT most restaurants in Brisbane speak Mandarin, I felt a deep sense of duty and was moved.

For our first mission, we went to the Sunnybank shopping center. Our group of three spent three hours, from 11:30 to 2:30, distributing 70 gospel bags and having brief conversations with around 60 people. After returning to my accommodation, I was so exhausted that I fell asleep in the middle of the day...

Though physically and mentally tired, I thank God! The daily morning and evening devotions, the reviews after each mission trip, the encouragement and motivation from God's word, and the heartfelt sharing from each person allowed us to forget our fatigue and joyfully look forward to the next mission.

During this short mission, I once again experienced the Holy Spirit working personally. I was deeply impressed by Ms. Chen, the owner of a bubble tea shop whom we met on the first day. She was deeply moved when she understood our intentions and shared that she, too, is a Christian. She came from Hong Kong over a year ago but couldn't rest on Sundays due to work commitments. Our vision and mission made her realize how real the Lord's calling is.

On the second day, we met Cliff, a Taiwanese owner of three chain stores with a pantheistic belief. When he casually spoke about his faith, he was shaken by Brother Anthony's testimony of God's peace. Cliff invited us to sit down and talk in detail. After we left, he carefully read the gospel booklet and even urged us to come back.

During these days, I took solitary walks down the streets near my accommodation every morning, feeling a tinge of sadness. I thought of the people we encountered daily and the prayers of the local Mandarin-speaking pastor for a church building. A film title suddenly came to mind: "A Corner Forgotten by Love." Is this the state of Brisbane's restaurant industry? No, Lord. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Since You have called the six of us here for this short mission, Your gracious calling will surely lead more pastors, brothers, and sisters to join in this field, bringing more attention to this special community.

IHAVE LONG FELT MOVED to join the short-term mission organized by RMI to fulfill the Lord's Great Commission and bring glory to His name. Unfortunately, due to certain circumstances last year, I was unable to participate. This year in August, I was concerned that I wouldn't be able to handle the journey due to a persistent cough, but in the end, I still signed up.

I often say that God's ways are beyond human understanding, and He always has unexpected plans. Although this short-term mission trip to Brisbane only had six participants, the team God assembled was still strong! Among us were a pastor, two evangelists, a brother with significant short-term mission experience, and a young, energetic brother named Anthony. Both Anthony and I were new to short-term missions, and neither of us were very fluent in Mandarin!

When I learned that I would need to preach the gospel in Mandarin and didn't know the other team members, I did feel some pressure. But on reflection, I realized that God was teaching me to rely entirely on Him and not on my own abilities. I couldn't help but thank and praise the Lord for His arrangements!

The morning devotional before heading out each day was like a shot of energy for us; it felt as though everyone was fully charged and ready to go with the Lord by our side. We were united in spirit, working together in perfect harmony, encouraging and supporting one another. It truly moved me deeply! The harvest field in Brisbane is vast, with many young people. Even though I preached the gospel in broken Mandarin, to my surprise, people responded earnestly, listened attentively, and kept nodding, which really surprised me. I thank God for that! This experience made me realize that we shouldn't rely on our own wisdom or strength. We just need to be faithful and do our best to fulfill God's commands, and He will accomplish the rest. I pray that the Lord will show mercy and grace so that the seeds sown may take root and flourish. I also pray that the local church will soon have its own venue to meet their pastoral needs, and that they can develop a gospel outreach through their restaurant ministry, allowing more Chinese people to experience the grace of the Lord.

Mei Ling Lo



THIS SHORT-TERM MISSION had only six team members, and we visited most of the Chinese restaurants in the southwestern area of Brisbane. After each outing, we would share and review our experiences. During one of these sharing sessions, I heard the Lord's words: "Go

and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit..." Each review showed the unity and obedience among the team, and throughout the mission, we deeply felt the presence of the Lord Jesus. As long as I was willing to go, the Holy Spirit would guide, grant peace, and empower. He encouraged us to actively spread the gospel and affirmed the Lord's promises. He first united us in Christ and then emboldened us to proclaim God's gospel. This was not just a mission experience, but it also promoted spiritual growth. "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy!" This is true. When we shared the gospel with restaurant workers, we faced many challenges. The timing had to be precise, and even when encountering difficulties, we had to persevere. Once, during a busy peak hour, a teammate was about to give up, but then a miracle happened—the gospel target was able to sit down and listen to the entire gospel message. How incredible! It reflected our trust in the Lord Jesus and our belief that He would bring a harvest at the right time. On the last two days of the mission, it coincided with a public holiday, and the restaurants were very busy. However, we thought about not knowing when we could return, so we quietly waited, making sure to hand over the last gospel packet. That feeling was filled with tears. The Lord Jesus promised to be with us, and may we boldly proclaim God's gospel in our workplaces.

Ming Yuen Liu



THIS "SHORT-TERM MISSION" seems to have been specially arranged for me by God. My teammates were all a great blessing to me. During the entire 9-day mission, whether in the morning devotions, daily outreaches, or evening testimony sharing and prayers, we shared God's grace, encouraged each other, sought God's will together, and quickly built mutual trust and rapport.

Throughout this "short-term mission," although there were no earth-shattering miracles, I saw God's guidance in every event. In fact, among the great number of people we encountered, only a few spoke Cantonese. My Mandarin is quite poor, and I was really worried I wouldn't have the chance to share the Gospel (which further reminded me to pray for the Mandarin ministry, because the harvest is so great, and more workers are needed to gather it).

One time, we went to a restaurant for Yum Cha lunch, and I gave a Gospel packet to a waitress I was talking to. To my surprise, she was introduced to Christ over 20 years ago by a coworker from RMI and has been attending church services every Sunday since. Seeing this

Pastor Joyce Wu