

“Be thou my vision” – this hymn has become my daily prayer and meditation. Christ as my vision, controlling my thoughts, both day and night. Reflecting on my slogan of many years: *“with a servant's heart”*, I suddenly realized that this is just the flip side of the coin: only if Christ is my vision, can I consistently *“with a servant's heart”* serve the church in Taiwan and my family.

Tuesday December 22, I experienced God's care, not once but twice. As I road my motorbike home after a rough day, I felt I should get the oil changed. The bike shop informed me: “there is no oil to drain!” Continuing home with new oil, a car speeding through red lights just missed me. While I am sure he cares for me daily, it is not often that I see and feel his care so dramatically!

Less exhilarating, this fall I have increasing pain in my shoulders / upper arms, allowing me to sleep only for a few hours at a time without getting up and stretching. But there are positives. If I get angry at my children, I feel sharp pain --> control anger. Waking up at night --> pray and read the Bible. Finally, as I prepared our research plan the pain forced me to have my students help me --> they also get ownership and the plan was better than if I did it individually. While I thank God for lessons from this pain, I pray that it will not continue!

In 2014, I felt God wanted me to do something in the area of English language ministry and was praying to God about it. As I drove my motorbike through a small village (I go through almost every day), a green LED message board displayed one English word: “WAIT”. (See picture, I have never seen this board before or after display anything by Chinese characters). In the last few months of 2015, it seems that God has removed the WAIT, as suddenly many opportunities have started to present themselves. (1) Our school is preparing to receive a large number of mainland Chinese students. This year, I was made responsible for 14 students who are enrolled in my department. (2) In my wife Sharon's hometown, I'm now helping the pastor by preaching once per month in the Chinese language service (main service is Taiwanese) (3) I help the pastor (his wife is not well) of the local English language church by speaking bi-monthly. (4) I continue to support the Taiwanese teachers leading the “Introduction to the Bible” class at Yuan Ze University (YZU).

Looking toward 2016, I see many needs. a. Mainland Chinese students: Increasing numbers, but who is concerning them? b. English-speaking foreign students: Increasing numbers, but who is concerning them? c. YZU's “Introduction to the Bible” class: 400 students applied but YZU only allows us to accept 100 students. Is there another way in which we can serve the 3/4 of students who want to learn about Christ and receive university credit but could not enrol?

My eldest daughter (Aien Charity) continues to bless my mother (in Canada, picture) and is being blessed by God in return. Johann continues to excel in music, but struggles in language. Leon delights in instigating trouble and then getting out of the way before he is caught. (Johann is not as fortunate!) Ruth basically talks nonstop, because “I enjoy talking”. Finally, thank you for your prayers re my marriage. After an difficult ending in 2015, the beginning of this year saw an abrupt change for the better in my relationship with my wife (Sharon).

Final thanksgiving, our whole family is currently in Canada and I will have chance to go to a scientific conference in Israel.



Jonathon White for (Sharon, Charity, Johann, Leon, Ruth)
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