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Fw: Chiu on This #32

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Wed, Aug 21, 2019 at 1:11 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michelle Chiu <wingsi.michelle@gmail.com>**To:** Simon Yuen <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 August 2019, 16:18:17 GMT-4**Subject:** Chiu on This #32

Chiu on This

Hello friend!

"The world is fairly studded and strewn with pennies cast broadside by a generous hand. But—and this is the point—who gets excited by a mere penny? But if you cultivate a healthy poverty and simplicity, so that finding a penny will literally make your day, then, since the world is in fact planted in pennies, you have with your poverty bought a lifetime of days."

—Annie Dillard, "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek"

Hello! How are you? Last I wrote, I was sitting in the sun. It is almost certainly far too hot for that today. The cicadas in the trees outside our window are working hard; they can almost drown out the sound of the traffic. Our basil

plants are thick and bushy with leaves—a sign of heat and sunshine. In spite of the longer daylight hours, the days have flown by.

I spend a lot of time living in the past and future; when I was growing up, my parents and teachers always had to remind me to "try to enjoy the present moment". I'm not sure I ever managed! So it is with great satisfaction and joy for me to write that God has taught me how to do just that in this season. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit has gently but firmly pulled me to a stop and brought my attention to something I'd looked at a million times.

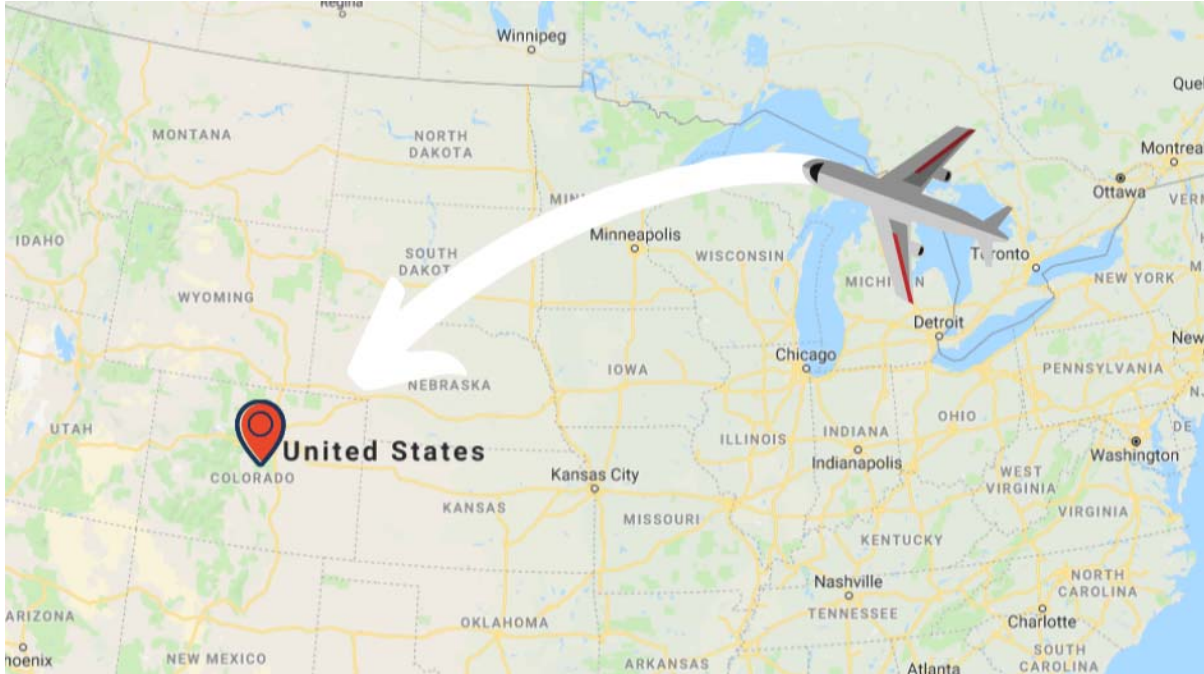
The shower faucet. Alwin dicing mushrooms. Berry smears on the pavement.

All sorts of things that make up the mundane, suddenly made awesome (and dare I say holy?). The rush of gratitude surprises me, takes the air out of my lungs as if there was suddenly less space in my chest. In hundreds of these moments, of seeing the "small" things, God has caused me to worship.



A white marked tussock moth caterpillar hanging out on a patio chair. It took me a few minutes to figure out which end was the head! Couldn't help but marvel at this little guy.

Ministry Update



- **US GATHERING:** OMF US is hosting a gathering for International and North American Comms workers in their national office in September! The schedule is not out yet, but the general idea is to reconnect or connect with new members in the Comms community, to learn from one another, and look for ways to collaborate/share resources/know-how. Please pray for our planning committee—it's tough to do regular Comms work *and* plan a conference!
- **FINANCIAL PROVISION COMMITTEE:** Thanks for praying for us! It's hard to describe exactly what we're dealing with without going too much into the details, so I'll just say this—making good policy is *hard work*. Sometimes, it can feel like every decision is the wrong one. And unlike the Comms work, I can't set this aside even after I've shut my laptop. We would so very much appreciate your prayer for continued wisdom!
- **PUBLICATION SCHEDULES:** Ah yes, it's that time of year again! The Heart for Asia newsletter theme has been set and we're now looking for writers. Having encountered all sorts of hiccups in the production process, I don't take anything for granted anymore! Please pray for everyone involved in the writing, copyediting, design, proofing, printing, and delivery.



The Money Minute

I know, I know. It's an OMF prayer letter, and I've used the word "money". I was using "Finance" before, but I think you all just translate it in your heads anyway. :) Why not call a spade a spade? (Or a cat a cat, if you speak French.) Besides, alliterated phrases are catchy.

Since the start of this year to end of July, I'm at an average of 54% support!

Yay! To those of you who donate, thank you for continuing to support my call to this ministry. And to those of you who have counselled me, cooked me delicious meals, messaged me funny GIFs, prayed for me (and then followed up with me), replied to my prayer letters, thank you too!

Personal Update



Our lovely friends, sending us off at the Saint John airport.

- **RUN FOR THE HILLS:** Last time I wrote, we were about to head West to the Canadian Rockies to camp. The week before we flew out, Parks Canada issued a travel advisory for the Icefield Parkway, saying that it had snowed. (We quickly repacked.) Both of us were captivated by God's awesome creation: beautiful, rugged, wild. Such a humbling experience to wake up in the presence of these stone giants. It was a much-needed reminder that God is big—very very big—and his ways, mysterious as they are, are truly higher than ours.
- **VISITING OLD FRIENDS:** We recently returned from visiting some friends in the Atlantic. (Some of you may recognize them!) It was a joy to be with them again, catching up, meeting their new church community, and reconnecting with their daughter and granddaughter (they grow so fast!). The Sunday before we left, Alwin was asked to share his testimony and I was invited to sing with the worship team. We did so, feeling that this was God calling us to share our voices with this small rural church at this time.
- **HONG KONG & HEARTBREAK:** Hardly a day goes by without another headline about Hong Kong. The tension is not just political, but social. Differing opinions on solutions, characterizations, credibility of media outlets, motivations, and actions are dividing communities, churches, and even families. Would you please pray for wisdom, humility, and grace? Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters over there; it's complicated. Pray too, that the violence would de-escalate, and a clear solution would arise.

Thanksgiving and Requests

1. Thanking God that Alwin and I have both had a chance to slow down and pay attention to the all the ways that God shows his love for us.
2. I'd like to ask prayer for a friend who's in distress. They're facing a very difficult transition right now, and don't have much support. Would you please pray for them, that they'd get the help they need, and that they would feel the special presence of God in this season?
3. Please pray too, for FAC, our home church. We have many older adults in our congregation, and a number of them have been called home to the

Lord this summer. Our leadership is reviewing and revising policy as well —they need the Lord's guidance on how best to do that.

4. Please keep praying for Alwin and me as we grow deeper in faith and marriage together. It has not been perfect, but boy has it ever been good.

Don't hesitate to let me know how Alwin and I can be praying for you guys!

Shalom,

Michelle.



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