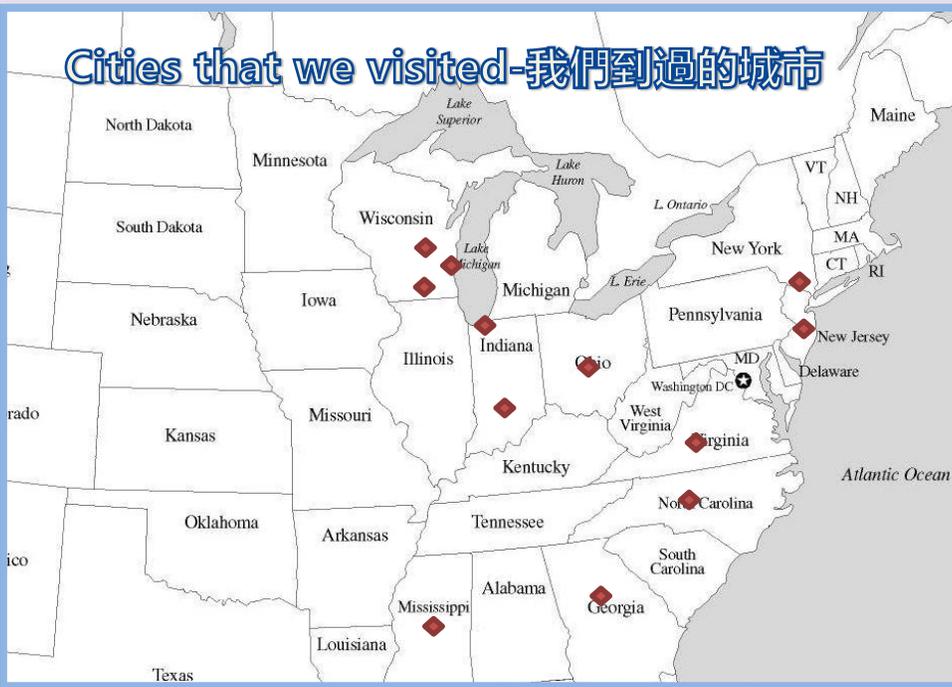


Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Three weeks ago, my wife and two daughters said good-bye to me and my son, Zephy. Finally, they finished their summer vacation in the States. They spent almost two months in the States. It's quite long, yet it's still too short for them. Sadly, they had to separate with their good friends here and go back to Taipei for their new school year. Well, this is life. For everything there is a season; a time to gather and a time to depart.

Last week, I (Toon) said good-bye to Zephy. He goes to Beloit College in Wisconsin. The school is a very small liberal arts college in a very southern part of the state. During the orientation, I joined all the parents for Parents Orientation. All the parents had the same feeling; they wanted to spend as much time as possible with their kids. However, every parent had to leave there no matter what, for they had to go back to the routine of their lives. Before I left, I prayed



with him in his dorm. Then, I reminded him not to forget to go to church to worship God. I have nothing to hide my feeling from you; I have discovered that my emotional was quite fragile. I controlled myself not to tear, but my emotion didn't listen to my mind.

Now Zephy has to be by himself, and we believe he will be more mature and independent. Certainly, we (Toon and Pam) also have to learn how to let go.

Sometimes we ask

ourselves, "Are we good parents?" or "Have we done a good job in parenting?" Well, we want to admit that we are not perfect parents, and sometimes we failed before kids and others. However, we often tell our kids that we are not perfect parents, yet we always confirm to them that we love them for who they are. Shamelessly, we want to acknowledge that we have tried our best to follow God's word to raise them. Indeed, we need to continue to lift them up in our prayers.

Actually, we have accomplished many important missions during our stay in the States. Let us name them one by one as following:

Traveling

From the day we arrived until today, we have travelled about 6000 miles. No doubt, we spent many hours on the road; the simple mathematical calculation shows that we spent 100 hours in the car. It's no kidding! However, we really enjoyed the time with kids; we joked, ate, slept, read, listened to music, and once awhile we argued. Pam and I thought that it might be the last time for our family traveled this way.

From Northern VA to Mississippi. The longest trip was from DC (Northern Virginia) to Mississippi. Our very first station was in Duke University. We visited old



friends, Rev. Kenneth Woo and his family. Besides spending time together for fellowship, we also had an opportunity to visit the campus. From Duke, we drove to Atlanta, and we had David Lu's family in that city. However, upon our arriving we were surprised by Patrick Pan and his family. Although we didn't stay too long at their house, our conversation and fellowship really warmed our hearts. In Atlanta, we took the opportunity to visit Coca-Cola museum, and we also tasted all products by Coca-Cola. It's a very special experience. The next station was in Jackson, Mississippi. We spent about 6 days in Jackson. We met with many old friends, visited Reformed Theological Seminary, shared in small groups, and preached in a Sunday Worship. Kids also had the opportunity to see their friends, and they spent time together for movies. On the way back to DC, we stopped at Lynchburg, VA. Pam had an appointment with her professor for her PhD dissertation.

Visiting Beloit College (Wisconsin). This trip was not in our original plan due to the distance. However, we still had plenty of free days before Pam's defense and New Jersey's trip. We thought it's a good idea that the whole family could visit that school. Everyone thought it's quite fun to go there. We drove for 14 hours for a single trip to Beloit, and we booked a hotel in Chicago. We took a short trip to visit this great city. We also visited Wheaton College for both Pam and I hope that our kids could go to this great Christian college. Well, not our will, but His will be done. We spent two days in Beloit, and the school arranged someone to give us a campus tour. Actually, Pam and I felt much more comfortable after the visit. First, there are 4-5 churches next to the campus, and there are two college Christian fellowship groups. Unexpectedly, the girl who gave us the tour is the leader of Inter-Varsity Fellowship. What a surprise! Actually, she is someone I would want to contact. Second, the town is quite small. Speaking from a parent's perspective, it's a good place for a good education. Zephy was kind of disappointed that the town was so small. Do you want to know how small it is? The biggest shopping mall is Super Wal-Mart, and it's the center of the community.



New Jersey and New York's visit. We went to Cherry Hill, NJ at the end of July. We shared our mission at Cherry Hill Chinese Christian Church, and the pastor and two deacons are very dear friends of our family. We met them about 25 years ago at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Actually, I visited this church about 2 years ago. In this visit, I have seen God blessed this church through Pastor James Chen's leadership. Upon our visit to New Jersey, our friend arranged us to stay one day in Mahantam, NYC. Wow, it's a very special experience for our family. However, I didn't like the traffic in New York City.

Pam's defense

One of the most beneficial events of our trip to the States is Pam's completion of her PhD defense. At first, Pam only tried to set up meetings with her professor to discuss about the progress of her dissertation. However, the process of writing went much smoothly than she thought. Praise the Lord, it's done! Many might ask "what's next?" Well, we don't have any answer now. The original plan of pursuing the degree is not to improve our income; it's to have more opportunities to share the Gospel. That is also her mission of going back to Taiwan. We have seen the demand of Christian counseling is very crucial, because many Christian go to secular psychology for the answer. However, if she can find a ministry that can reduce our budget, maybe it is even better.

Toon's Trip to Wisconsin and Indiana

During Toon's time with Zephy in Beloit, he stayed there for a week. Besides helping Zephy move and open a bank account, he had plenty of free time. Toon went to visit old friends, Iho and Adna Tree in Madison. Iho is the pastor of Madison Chinese Christian Church. Later Toon also traveled to Indiana to visit Tao Mou and Idee.

親愛的弟兄姐妹：

主內平安。

三週前我的太太和兩個女兒跟我和我兒子道別，結束了他們在美的暑假。他們這次停留了約兩個月的時間，雖然頗長，但對他們來說，仍嫌太短。他們最後依依不捨地離開這裏的好朋友，回去台北開始他們新的學年。這就是人生！萬事都有定時，聚集有時，分散也有時。

上週我(敦興)和 Zephy 說再見。他到威斯康辛州的 Beloit 大學念書。這是在威州南部一個很小的人文科學校。在新生訓練的時候，我也參加了給家長的聚會。所有的家長都有同樣的感覺；他們想要跟他們的孩子們更多的時間在一起。不過每一個父母最後還是得離開那裏，回到自己平時的生活。我離開之前，我在兒子的宿舍跟他一起禱告。我提醒他不要忘記到教會敬拜神。我不想向你們隱瞞自己的感情，我發現自己的感情很脆弱。我盡量控制自己不流淚，但我的感情似乎不聽我頭腦的使喚。

現在 Zephy 必須自己一人，我們相信他會變的更成熟和獨立。當然，我們(敦興和如品)也必須學會放手。有時我們問自己：“我們是好父母嗎？”或“我們教養兒女做的如何？”我們承認我們不是完美的父母，有時我們在兒女和別人面前也許很失敗。然而我們常告訴我們的孩子們，雖然我們不是完美的父母，但我們總是按著他們的本相來愛他們。我們也可以無愧的說，我們已盡了我們所能的，按神的話來養育他們。當然，我們需要繼續為他們禱告。

事實上，我們這次在美國完成了許多重要的任務。讓我來一一與您分享：從我們到達的第一天到今天為止，我們一共跑了大約六千英哩左右的路程。毫無疑問的，我們花了很多時間在車上。用最簡單的數學計算，我們大概花了一百個小時在車上。這是真的！不過，我們很享受這段跟孩子們在一起的時間，當中我們一起說笑、吃東西、睡覺、看書、聽音樂、偶爾也會有些爭論。如品跟我都認為這大概是我們全家最後一刺這樣一起旅行。

從北維州到密西西比：這次最長的旅程是從華盛頓 DC（北維州）到密西西比州。這段路的第一站是杜克 Duke 大學。在那兒我們拜訪了我們的老朋友，胡牧師和他的家人。除了跟他們交通敘舊外，我們也有機會參觀杜克大學的校園。從那兒我們又開到亞特蘭大，拜訪了呂偉一家。當我們到達的時候，我們驚喜地發現潘栩一家也在。雖然我們在他們家沒有停留太久的時間，跟他們的交通分享真的溫暖了我們的心。在亞特蘭大我們也參觀了可口可樂博物館，並嘗了所有可口可樂公司出產的產品。那真是一個很特別的經驗。下一站我們到了密西西比州的傑克遜。在傑城我們停了六天的時間，見了許多老朋友，拜訪了改革宗神學院，在小組中分享，並在主日崇拜中講道。孩子們也有機會再見到他們的老朋友，並一起去看電影。在回去 DC 的路上，我們經過維州的 Lynchburg，如品跟她的指導教授見面，討論她的博士論文。



參觀 Beloit 大學

這個旅成本來並沒有在我們的計畫之內，因為覺得太遠了。但是由於在如品的論文答辯和去新澤西州的旅程之前，我們仍有許多天的時間，我們想也許全家一起去那個學校看看也不錯。我們每個人都覺得去那兒很好玩。到 Beloit 我們單程要開 14 個小時，在途中我們停留在芝加哥，並短短拜訪了這個城市。我們也去參觀了 Wheaton 大學，因為如品和我都希望孩子們能去這間很棒的基督教大學。但是不是照我們的意思，而是願祂的旨意成就。我們在 Beloit 停留了兩天的時間，校方也安排了一個人帶我們參觀學校。事實上，在參觀過學校後，如品和我都覺得放心不少。首先，在學校的週圍約有四到五間的教會，大學裏並有兩個基督徒團契。很意外地，帶我們參觀學

校的那個女孩就是學校 Inter-Varsity 團契的帶領人。真是一個驚喜！她其實就是我想要聯絡的人。第二，Beloit 這個城市很小，從父母的觀點來看，這是一個合適求學的地方。Zephy 對這個城市這麼小倒有點失望。你想知道這個城市有多小嗎？那裏最大的店鋪就是超級 Wal-Mart，那也是那個社區的中心。

新澤西州和紐約

在七月底的時候我們去了新澤西州的櫻桃山(Cherry Hill)。在櫻桃山華人基督教會我們分享了我們的宣教事工。教會的牧師和兩位執事(夏宇明夫婦及周國成夫婦)都是我們大約 25 年前在路易斯安那州 Baton Rouge 就認識很好的朋友。事實上，我(敦興)在兩年前拜訪過這個教會。在這次的探望中，我發現上帝藉著陳興福牧師的帶領祝福這個教會。這次我們的朋友也安排我們住在紐約市的曼哈頓一晚。哇！這對我們家來說是個很特別的經驗。不過我並不喜歡紐約的交通。

如品的論文答辯

我們這次回美旅程其中一個最大的收穫就是如品完成了她的博士論文答辯。一開始如品只是試圖跟教授安排見面，討論有關她論文的進展。然而論文的寫作進行的比她想像的順利許多。讚美主，她順利的通過了答辯！許多人大概會問，”接下來呢？”我們現在還沒有確切的答案。當初讀這個學位的目的並不是要增加我們的收入，而是為了有更多的機會可以傳福音，這也是如品回台灣的目的。我們看到對基督教輔導的需求是如此急迫，因為很多基督徒轉而去求世俗心理學來尋求答案。不過如果如品能找到一個事奉能減輕我們經濟的負擔，那當然更好。

敦興到威斯康辛州和印第安那州的旅程

敦興和 Zephy 在 Beloit 的時候，他在那兒待了一個星期，除了幫 Zephy 搬家和在銀行開戶頭外，他有很多時間。因此他去看望了兩位老朋友，在 Madison 的崔宜厚牧師及師母。崔牧師現在是麥城華人基督教會的牧師。之後敦興也去印第安那州看望牟濤牧師和美德師母一家。

Prayer Request代禱事項:



Toon's ministry - for his preparation of the class-Christian Education. He will go to Malaysia on November, for he is the speaker for Reformed Seminar of Kuching. Also, he will travel to China in December. 敦興的服事: 為他基督教教育這門課的備課。他也會在 11 月去馬來西亞，他應邀作東馬歸正神學講座的講員。同時，他也會在 12 月時到中國教課。

Pam's future - Please pray that God will show her clearly what to do next 如品的未來: 請禱告求神清楚的向她指示下一步要做甚麼。



Zephy - please pray for his adjustment in college. Also, please pray for his church life; he can find a good church and fellowship 為敬一在大學的適應及能找到合適的教會/參加團契禱告。



Anna and Praisye- for their adjustment for the new school year and for their walk with God. 為祈一及頌一新的學年的學習及她們與主的關係禱告。

Your partner in ministry 你們事奉的夥伴,

Toon and Pam Yeo 敦興. 如品, 8/31/2011