

"God is not a man, so he does not lie.
He is not human, so he does not change his mind.
Has he ever spoken and failed to act?
Has he ever promised and not carried it through?
Listen, I received a command to bless;
God has blessed, and I cannot reverse it!"

Numbers 23:19-20

“上帝并非世人，
祂不撒谎；
上帝不是凡人，
祂不反悔。
祂言出必行，
信守承诺。
我奉命祝福，
祂已赐福，
我不能改变。”

民数记 23:19-20

Hi friends,

2022 has been a strange year so far.

2021 was an exciting year of fresh beginnings and new hope for the future, and so we started off 2022 with a strong sense of confidence and purpose for the future.

As we shared with you at that time, we could see clearly that God was blessing Coco's small team with great opportunities to expand the reach of the parenting courses they had been offering at corporate offices and other locations in our city. Likewise, God had (once again) cleared obstacles and made a new way forward for CWEF to continue its longstanding rural community development work. After a few nervous months of uncertainty, the situation related to government approval had been resolved by early March of this year, and our CWEF team and I (Josh) were energized about the opportunities that lay ahead — not only for good work to do with local nonprofit partners, but also to move forward with the social enterprise business ideas our team has been planning since last year.

But then — bam! In mid-March: more than two months of intense lockdown and the beginning of what we started referring to as the "Endless Summer of 2022". Others here have jokingly renamed this year as: "2020 (Too)."

Much of these 6+ months spent together as a family have been truly wonderful. At the same time, this strange season has also led us through a good deal of frustration, confusion, malaise, and seeking answers from God:

- "Well, what are we supposed to do now...?"
- "Should we move forward with the work we felt so confident He'd called us to do before, or is it time to make a change...?"

- "What can we do to prepare for the next lockdown...?"
- "What is happening 'behind the scenes' in this country?"

At different points during this season, both Coco and I have experienced a sense of being "in the wilderness" – mentally tired, spiritually thirsty, and a bit lost.



Celebrating our 'release papers' at the end of lockdown

In recent weeks, we have been reading and reflecting on the book of Numbers, with the help of BibleProject's excellent videos and podcast. One interesting thing we've learned is that the original Hebrew name for this fourth scroll of the Torah is actually best translated as "In The Wilderness."

One of the most memorable and encouraging narratives is from chapters 22-24. This is the strange story of Balaam, a well-known pagan sorcerer of his day, who – unbeknownst to the Israelites – is hired by the king of Moab to go up into the hills and throw down curses on the Israelites, who are camped in the valley below.

But – each time Balaam tries to conjure a curse, he can't do it! Yahweh won't let him. Instead, the Lord protects His people from being cursed and instead commands Balaam to bless them three times, even though the people are complaining and rebelling against God and Moses down in the valley!

You can join His mission in Asia with us! We would love to partner with you.

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Give by Check: "Mission of Christ Network" (include "Asia - Josh & Coco Lange" in memo line) PO Box 533, Concordia, MO 64020

Questions? Contact: sara.endorf@missionofchrist.org ; (888) 495-9005 ext. 706

With the Israelites then (and with us now), Yahweh is always at work – protecting, blessing, and saving His people. Even during those times when we are stuck ‘in the wilderness’ – rebelling and complaining about our circumstances. He is always doing His mysterious and beautiful work ‘in the background,’ even as we are sometimes oblivious and ungrateful for everything He has done and is doing for us.

Now, as we have entered September and a new school year, the *Endless Summer* season is finally winding down, and some things are becoming more clear, as He reveals them. To learn more, and to join us in thanking the Father and asking that His gracious will to be done in our work and family life, please read the big red section. :)



Saying farewell to good friends and leaders from our congregation



QiuQiu & John's family, who were blessed by CWEF's work in rural Asia

Would you join us by committing to support the work God is doing here with your regular prayers and gifts?

We currently have 39 partners, and **we hope to reach 50.**

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PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

1. God continues to provide opportunities for our CWEF teams and local partners to serve disadvantaged rural communities, and to make a deep impact in people's lives. Over the summer, Josh was blessed to work with a great team of interns, who helped CWEF with a variety of projects, including an email campaign to share some great stories of the impact, transformation, and renewal that God is bringing about through CWEF's work. You can read more about the people we highlighted – the [students at Bohua school](#), [QiuQiu](#), [Xingqi](#), [Sreymom](#), [Hel](#), and [John](#) – at the [Stories of Hope](#) page on cweff.org.hk.
2. The married couple that Coco had worked with last year to provide [Alpha Parenting](#) courses made the decision to relocate to the U.S. for graduate school earlier this year. However, praise God -- the timing has worked out just right for our good friend A* to join Coco as a teammate. A* is also a member of our small group and a professional counselor. They plan to begin a new season of Alpha Parenting courses through our local congregation next month!
3. Speaking of our local congregation, two families who had been key leaders for this community also relocated over the summer, leaving some leadership gaps. The congregation has since asked Josh serve as an elder, and to continue serving as a regular member of the speaking team. Please ask Him to give me more of His grace and wisdom for these roles.
4. Much of the month of August was spent searching for, moving into, and getting settled in a new apartment, which is in a different complex just down the road from our previous home. There is a long explanation of why and how that happened, but we are simply grateful for the change and can also see that He was working ‘in the background’ to lead us to this new home. The apartment is better suited for hospitality, hosting our Saturday morning small group, welcoming new friends, and – we hope – having Coco's mom stay with us comfortably for longer stretches of time.
5. For faith and courage for all our CWEF team members as they go about the work God has called them to do.
6. Please join us in praying for Coco's parents and family members – for spiritual, physical, and mental healing and health.
7. Finally, for Coco and Josh – ask for the gift of His Spirit of faith, hope, and love for each other and for our kids.

In His Love – Josh & Coco, John & Sophie