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#### December 2014

#### Dear mission partners,

Thanksgiving is one of the major holidays celebrated in the USA on the fourth Thursday in November. It is a holiday with a special connection to new immigrants settling down in their newfound home away from home.

I remember how my family used to come together to celebrate Thanksgiving. First it was with my parents and siblings. Later on, as my generation had families of our own and moved to different cities, we would celebrate with our own children and friends. To Chinese immigrants, the family meal on Thanksgiving Day bears the closest resemblance to the big feast of a traditional family gathering on Chinese New Year's eve. We tried to follow the local custom and had a big turkey for diner even though everyone preferred the roast duck. We sang hymns to give thanks for new opportunities God granted us in a foreign land, but soon our conversation would turn to the time when we were growing up in China, the people and places we missed. For overseas Chinese Christians, Thanksgiving is often a gathering of reminiscence and remembrance, a time to recount God's goodness in our lives and to give thanks to God for all He has done for us.

This is the eighth Thanksgiving since my family moved to the UK. We have gradually adapted to British culture by accepting its own way of living and celebrating holidays. Interestingly, Thanksgiving is more recognised now in the UK as "Black Friday" is being used by businesses around the world to jump start the holiday shopping season. However, the atmosphere here is still quite different from that of the USA as people are going to work and to school as usual leaving no time to celebrate on a Thursday. At the COCM centre, we did not have a Thanksgiving gathering this year but kept going with our routine ministry tasks. Deep down in my heart, I felt a slight tuck of missing the festive gathering with family and friends. Then God reminded me to spend some quiet time alone with Him.

I thought about how I grew up during a challenging time in China and God sought me out among the billions of people and made Him known to me. Even in the tumultuous period God provided me with loving parents and a safe environment to grow up. He took me to the land of opportunities in the USA and guided me to a profession I could enjoy and thrive. God was gracious to me and sent my wife, the best helper in life, to journey with me all these years. God gave us the joy of raising our two children from cuddly babies into independent and intelligent young people. I traced the path God led our family to join COCM and serve in the mission field of Europe. I saw how God had prepared a bunch of mission aficionados who would go out to battle with me through thick and thin. What a privilege to serve with such a great team of fellow workers in Christ.

So in this Thanksgiving season, I thank God for giving me life in Christ, for my wife and children, for my fellow missionaries serving together in the mission field, and for all of you who are part of the big COCM family.

Serving together in Christ,

Rev. Henry Lu General Director



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## 二零一四年十二月

### 親愛的宣教夥伴們,

每年十一月的第四個星期四是美國的感恩節,也是一年中最重要的節日之一。這個節日是由早期的移民所設立,為要感恩他們在千里之外找到一個新的家園。

我還記得我們全家以前都在感恩節的時候團聚在一起,一開始就是和我的父母和兄弟姐妹。漸漸地,我們都成家立業,搬去另外的城市生活,我們也開始跟自己的孩子和朋友一起慶祝感恩節。對很多華人移民來說,感恩節當天家庭聚餐的豐盛程度絕對不亞於慶祝中國農曆新年。雖然我們都比較喜歡吃烤鴨,可是我們還是盡量遵照美國當地傳統,在感恩節當天一起吃火雞,一起唱詩感謝神在異鄉賜給我們許多新的機會。但是很快,我們就會談起在中國出生成長的經歷,那些讓我們懷念的人和地方。對於海外華人來說,感恩節讓我們思念故鄉,也讓我們有機會來述說神的慈愛,並感謝神在我們生命中成就的一切。

今年是我們搬來英國後的第八個感恩節,我們已經漸漸習慣了英國的文化、生活方式以及 過節的傳統。有意思的是,如今在英國感恩節被越來越多人熟知,主要是因為全世界的商家都 利用"黑色星期五"來進行節日購物促銷。當然,這裡的氣氛和美國相比還是非常不同,人們照 常在星期四上班上學,根本沒有時間聚集在一起來慶祝節日。在 COCM 宣教中心,今年我們也 沒有特別的感恩節慶祝,大家還是照常做着手頭的工作。但在我的內心深處,還是因為沒能跟 家人朋友一起慶祝節日而感受到了一絲遺憾。於是,神就提醒我要有一段與祂獨處的時間。

我回想我是如何在中國最艱難的一段歷史時期中成長起來,神又是如何在萬人中揀選我,將祂自己顯明在我的生命中。即使在動盪的時期中,神賜給我慈愛的父母和平安的成長環境。之後,神帶領我來到充滿機遇的美國,賜給我一份我所喜歡的職業,讓我在其中小有成就;神在祂的恩典中賜給我一位妻子,是我人生中的最佳伴侶,我們共同攜手走過許多歲月;神賜給我們夫婦二人一雙兒女,讓我們撫養他們從襁褓中的小嬰兒成長為獨立聰明的年輕人。我看見神預備道路,將我們全家帶來 COCM,在歐洲的宣教工場上服事。我也看到神為我們預備了一群滿有熱情的宣教夥伴,無論順境逆境,都與我並肩作戰。何等特權,在主裡有這樣一群共同服事的同工們。

因此,在這個感恩的季節中,我感謝神賜給我在基督裡的生命,賜給我妻子和孩子,賜給 我在宣教工場上共同爭戰的宣教同工們。也感謝神賜你們所有人給我,讓我們共同組成了 COCM 這個大家庭。

在主裡與你們同工的,





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# 二零一四年十二月

亲爱的宣教伙伴们,

每年十一月的第四个星期四是美国的感恩节,也是一年中最重要的节日之一。这个节日是由早期的移民所设立,为要感恩他们在千里之外找到一个新的家园。

我还记得我们全家以前都在感恩节的时候团聚在一起,一开始就是和我的父母兄弟姐妹。 渐渐地,我们都成家立业,搬去另外的城市生活,我们也开始跟自己的孩子和朋友一起庆祝感 恩节。对很多华人移民来说,感恩节当天家庭聚餐的丰盛程度绝对不亚于庆祝中国农历新年。 虽然我们都比较喜欢吃烤鸭,可我们还是尽量遵照美国当地传统,在感恩节当天一起吃火鸡, 一起唱诗感谢神在异乡赐给我们许多新的机会。但是很快,我们就会谈起在中国出生成长的经 历,那些让我们怀念的人和地方。对于海外华人来说,感恩节让我们思念故乡,也让我们有机 会来述说神的慈爱,并感谢神在我们生命中成就的一切。

今年是我们搬来英国后的第八个感恩节,我们已经渐渐习惯了英国的文化、生活方式以及过节的传统。有意思的是,如今在英国感恩节被越来越多人熟知,主要是因为全世界的商家都利用"黑色星期五"来进行节日购物促销。当然,这里的气氛和美国相比还是非常不同,人们照常在星期四上班上学,根本没有时间聚集在一起来庆祝节日。在 COCM 宣教中心,今年我们也没有特别的感恩节庆祝,大家还是照常做着手头的工作。但在我的内心深处,还是因为没能跟家人朋友一起庆祝节日而感受到了一丝遗憾。于是,神就提醒我要有一段与祂独处的时间。

我回想我是如何在中国最艰难的一段历史时期中成长起来,神又是如何在万人中拣选我,将祂自己显明在我的生命中。即使在动荡的时期中,神赐给我慈爱的父母和平安的成长环境。之后,神带领我来到充满机遇的美国,赐给我一份我所喜欢的职业,让我在其中小有成就;神在祂的恩典中赐给我一位妻子,是我人生中的最佳伴侣,我们共同携手走过许多岁月;神赐给我们夫妇二人一双儿女,让我们抚养他们从襁褓中的小婴儿成长为独立聪明的年轻人。我看见神预备道路,将我们全家带来 COCM,在欧洲的宣教工场上服事。我也看到神为我们预备了一群满有热情的宣教伙伴,无论顺境逆境,都与我并肩作战。何等特权,在主里有这样一群共同服事的同工们。

因此,在这个感恩的季节中,我感谢神赐给我在基督里的生命,赐给我妻子和孩子,赐给我在宣教工场上共同争战的宣教同工们。也感谢神赐你们所有人给我,让我们共同组成了 COCM 这个大家庭。

在主里与你们同工的,

**岩**子

吕子峰牧师 总干事



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Thank God for parents, wife and children

感謝神賜父母、妻子、兒女



Thank God for family 感謝神賜家庭溫暖



Thank God for big COCM family in Christ 感謝神在主裡賜下 COCM 這個大家庭