Phone : +44(0)1908 234 100
Website : www.cocm.org.uk
■ Fax : +44(0)1908 234 200
■ Email : cocm@cocm.org.uk

July 2016

Dear mission partners,

On Thursday, 23 June, people across the United Kingdom went to the polls to decide whether to remain in or to leave the European Union. This UK-wide referendum on Britain's EU membership had been described as a "once in a generation decision" for the British people. For months, the debates went on vigorously and the campaigns went down to the wire. There were pros and cons on both sides of the argument. Like many people, I was still undecided the night before I went to cast my vote.

To the surprise of many pundits and commentators as well as European Union supporters, the world woke up on Friday the 24th to find that Britain had decided to leave EU. The Prime Minister resigned immediately and the FTSE stock market responded with one of the biggest loss in history. Britain went from the fifth largest economy in the world to the sixth in just one short day. The news also sent shockwaves through global markets.

While the UK government tried to make statements to calm people, many politicians were scrambling for leadership in this unprecedented geopolitical and economic situation. The fear of uncertainty is felt by all of us. Can Britain survive the economic down turn in the immediate aftermath? Will we be able to continue our free trade with Europe? From the perspective of COCM as a mission organisation, the first thing on my mind is the free movement of our missionary staff. Will Brexit limit our ability to conduct gospel ministry throughout the UK and Europe?

In times of uncertainty, we must come to our Lord Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of our faith to find assurance and peace. As Christians, we are placed in this world for such a time like this, a time of turbulence and change, and we are called to share the love of Jesus Christ. Let us remember to shine His light into darkness and bring the hope in Him to those trapped in fear and despair.

On Saturday, 25th June, four of COCM's Missionaries-In-Preparation (MIPs) graduated from London School of Theology. They came from China, USA, and UK respectively, and without exception all heeded the call to serve in the UK/Europe mission field amongst the Chinese Diaspora. They have spent the past three years studying theology while serving alongside other COCM missionaries involving in various ministries to reach the next generation of young people. I was overjoyed to see them graduating with flying colours.

Please join me in praying for this group of new staff as they transition from life as full-time students at LST to full-time missionary workers at COCM. Pray that they will do their best to present themselves to God as approved workers who do not need to be ashamed and who correctly handle the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Pray also that they will not let anyone look down on them because they are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity (1 Timothy 4:12).

Serving together in Christ,

Rev. Henry Lu General Director

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■ Email : cocm@cocm.org.uk

二零一六年七月

親愛的宣教夥伴們,

6月23日星期四,英國各地的居民都涌向投票站,投票決定英國是否要繼續留在歐盟。這次決定英國去留的全民公投對所有的英國人來說都是"一個時代才有一次"的決定。在這之前的好幾個月中,各方辯論進行地如火如荼,雙方的拉票運動也都藉著媒體大肆宣傳。無論去留都各有利弊,跟很多人一樣,我在投票的前一天還是猶豫不決。

6月24日星期五清晨,人們一醒來就發現英國真的決定離開歐盟了,這令很多權威人士、各方評論員以及歐盟支持者驚訝不已。英國首相立即宣佈辭職,倫敦證券市場指數也遭遇歷史上最大的一次下滑。一夜之間,英國從世界第五大經濟實體下跌到第六位,對全球金融市場造成了不小的震盪。

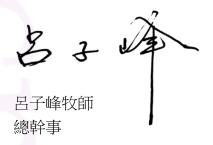
正當英國政府努力通過各項聲明來平息民意的時候,許多政客卻利用這個政治經濟領域千載難逢的機會來爭奪領導權。每個人都感受到了一種前途未卜的恐懼感。英國能否挺過離開歐盟而造成的經濟下滑?我們還能繼續與歐洲大陸保持自由貿易關係嗎?從一個宣教機構的角度,我所想到的第一件事就是我們的宣教士還能自由出入歐洲大陸嗎?英國離開歐盟會不會限制我們在英國和歐洲大陸的福音事工呢?

在這一切的不確定中,我們只有來到主耶穌基督的面前,因為祂才是我們信心的磐石,在 祂那裡我們才能找到永恆的確據和平安。作為基督徒,我們被放在現今這樣一個充滿了震盪和 變化的時代中,而我們也被神呼召要在這個時代中來傳揚耶穌基督的愛,我們的使命就是要在 黑暗中發光,將耶穌基督的盼望帶給那些在恐懼和絕望中的人們。

6 月 25 日星期六,四位 COCM 的預備宣教士(MIPs)從倫敦神學院畢業。他們分別來自中國、美國和英國,他們都回應了神的呼召,將在英國和歐洲大陸服事在這裡的華人群體。在過去三年中,他們一邊在神學院讀書,一邊與 COCM 的其他宣教士一同參與服事下一代的年輕人。我也很高興看到他們都以非常優異的成績畢業。

我也邀請你跟我一起禱告,求神讓這群新加入的同工們能很快適應新的工作環境,從神學生進入到 COCM 宣教士的服事狀態。禱告他們能竭力在神面前得蒙喜悅,作無愧的工人,按着正意分解真理的道(提後二章 15 節);也禱告他們不可叫人小看他們年輕,總要在言語、行為、愛心、信心、清潔上,都作信徒的榜樣(提前四章 12 節)。

在主裡與你們同工的,





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二零一六年七月

亲爱的宣教伙伴们,

6月23日星期四,英国各地的居民都涌向投票站,投票决定英国是否要继续留在欧盟。这次决定英国去留的全民公投对所有的英国人来说都是"一个时代才有一次"的决定。在这之前的好几个月中,各方辩论进行地如火如荼,双方的拉票运动也都藉着媒体大肆宣传。无论去留都各有利弊,跟很多人一样,我在投票的前一天还是犹豫不决。

6月24日星期五清晨,人们一醒来就发现英国真的决定离开欧盟了,这令很多权威人士、各方评论员以及欧盟支持者惊讶不已。英国首相立即宣佈辞职,伦敦证券市场指数也遭遇历史上最大的一次下滑。一夜之间,英国从世界第五大经济实体下跌到第六位,对全球金融市场造成了不小的震荡。

正当英国政府努力通过各项声明来平息民意的时候,许多政客却利用这个政治经济领域千载难逢的机会来争夺领导权。每个人都感受到了一种前途未卜的恐惧感。英国能否挺过离开欧盟而造成的经济下滑?我们还能继续与欧洲大陆保持自由贸易关係吗?从一个宣教机构的角度,我所想到的第一件事就是我们的宣教士还能自由出入欧洲大陆吗?英国离开欧盟会不会限制我们在英国和欧洲大陆的福音事工呢?

在这一切的不确定中,我们只有来到主耶稣基督的面前,因为祂才是我们信心的磐石,在 祂那里我们才能找到永恒的确据和平安。作为基督徒,我们被放在现今这样一个充满了震荡和 变化的时代中,而我们也被神呼召要在这个时代中来传扬耶稣基督的爱,我们的使命就是要在 黑暗中发光,将耶稣基督的盼望带给那些在恐惧和绝望中的人们。

6月25日星期六,四位COCM的预备宣教士(MIPs)从伦敦神学院毕业。他们分别来自中国、美国和英国,他们都回应了神的呼召,将在英国和欧洲大陆服事在这裡的华人群体。在过去三年中,他们一边在神学院读书,一边与COCM的其他宣教士一同参与服事下一代的年轻人。我也很高兴看到他们都以非常优异的成绩毕业。

我也邀请你跟我一起祷告,求神让这群新加入的同工们能很快适应新的工作环境,从神学生进入到COCM宣教士的服事状态。祷告他们能竭力在神面前得蒙喜悦,作无愧的工人,按着正意分解真理的道(提后二章15节);也祷告他们不可叫人小看他们年轻,总要在言语、行为、爱心、信心、清洁上,都作信徒的榜样(提前四章12节)。

在主里与你们同工的,





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Candy



Josh



Tim

Joe & May

