

Colorado Family Church: Reflections on Visit with Ukrainian NM Rev. Cheong

Michael Hentrich
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Dear family,

As you know, we had a recent visit from Rev. Cheong, national leader of Ukraine, and a small delegation of Ukrainians. We spent most of Saturday in sharing and discussion about what they have accomplished in Ukraine over the past 20 years. Rev. Cheong is not going on some kind of speaking tour. He came to our community only. It was a great blessing for us. We were grateful that around 20 of our members came to attend throughout various parts of the day.

I know that I shared a little bit with you at Sunday Service, but I wanted to share a few more reflections of our time together, as this meeting was incredibly impactful to me. Being able to listen to Rev. Cheong's content and hear about the consistent growth and developments in Ukraine left a strong impression on me. In the course of the last twenty years, they have made measurable and significant developments in the areas of business, NGO activities, and spiritual/family/church health in ways that left me feeling both humbled and encouraged. Humbled that a small community like theirs (not so much bigger than ours) could accomplish so much and encouraged that we can succeed as well. I couldn't help but feel that, although our situations are very different, I wanted to inherit as much as possible from them. I felt stretched and that this was God calling us to a new level and raising His bar of expectation for us.

My main takeaway from this experience is the need to grow as pastors and become more clear about what we are trying to do and why we are doing it. One person asked about their children, how to inspire them about our faith. Rev. Cheong said, "Change yourself through God's Word and your children will see that." I could resonate so strongly with this statement. God's Words should be a catalyst for change in our lives. How determined are we to make that happen? How much are we even trying? These are some of the words that he left me with that I have been reflecting on.

I was encouraged to see that we are going in the right direction, but I also noticed the need for some significant changes that we plan to develop over time.

- 1) More of an emphasis on reading God's Words and discussions and practice on implementing that in our lives.
- 2) Greater intimacy, vulnerability, and closeness within and between families in our community.
- 3) Develop more business income and outreach to the greater public
- 4) Make more clear and measurable plans for the future

Our time with the Ukrainian delegation was very brief, and they encouraged us to come to Ukraine to see things there in person. Adonia and I have determined to go in April. We are very much looking forward to it, and if any of you would also like to come, we'd be happy to go together with you. Please let us know.

Sincerely,

Pastor Mike