



美國晨曦會
這福音本是神的大能，要救一切相信的
Operation Dawn

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Operation Dawn July 2020 Prayer Letter

My name is Peter Chen, I recently joined staff at USA Operation Dawn. I was a former drug addict who came to Operation Dawn in 2010 to receive help for my addiction. As of this month, I will have served full-time at Operation Dawn for a little over half a year. I am very grateful for the lessons I've learned so far, and for the other coworkers not only being more experienced than me but giving me much grace as a new coworker.

This past eight months has been a time of challenge and growth. I have experienced many mistakes and misunderstandings as a coworker but have been very encouraged and strengthened by the other coworkers. Through sharing their experiences and mistakes starting out, God has encouraged me to persevere as I continue to navigate my new role. I have had to adjust to how the brothers treat me now that I am a staff vs. just a fellow brother. When I was just a brother, I had the freedom from responsibility to interact with the other brothers. There was a certain level of detachment that created respect and camaraderie with them. But once I became a staff, my perceived image changed which in some ways diminished that respect and camaraderie because now I was perceived as a "Staff member" and held to a higher standard. It has been challenging for me in learning to lead by example, but I am grateful that God has been leading me to be motivated more and more by love rather than fear.

After my initial enthusiasm, I hit a period of disillusionment and started treating it as just like another job. I go there, I put in my time. After hearing Reverend Lau's sharing, I was reminded that what I am doing is not just another job, but I am serving the Lord and doing His work. It has been humbling to again and again go back to a servants mentality, trying to honor God whether I am serving at Operation Dawn or serving my wife at home. Serving full-time, God has revealed to me how much I look to my own image as a good Christian/man/husband/friend to feel okay, which depends on my performance and my willpower. Through serving at Operation Dawn, I realize just how weak and limited I am as a human being, and one of the lessons God has been teaching me is entrusting everything to Him. At times I have been discouraged, but I have never wavered from the belief that God has called me to this ministry. Once when talking with a coworker about my frustrations about my weaknesses, he told me that perhaps this was why God called me to serve here, to refine my character and my faith. I have really come to comprehend how the person who receives the most blessing from serving at Operation Dawn is myself.

I still struggle a lot with serving from my flesh, but it has been amazing seeing God meet me where I am and give me grace to continue. If it weren't for the godly brothers who invested in me and committed to my growth when I was still a student, I would not be where I am today. And it is this investment of love that I wish to pass down to all the brothers who come to Operation Dawn, because that is the heart of discipleship. I have had the joy of seeing several brothers graduate and have enjoyed coming alongside them as they navigate life outside of Operation Dawn. We have even started a fellowship group for Operation Dawn Graduates living in the Bay Area. My hope is that we can continually support one another in our recovery and spur each other in our discipleship to Christ.

I am so blessed to have the support of my fellow coworkers, my family and friends, and my brothers and sisters in Christ, for without them I would not understand how amazing our God is. Thank all of you who support our ministry and for praying for me as I learn to depend more and more on our Lord in my service to Him.

Prayer Items :

1. The US epidemic has recently broken out again, as the number of cases and deaths are increasing. Some counties that recently reopened businesses have closed them again, causing more people to lose their jobs. Pray that God would give wisdom to government officials dealing with this epidemic. We hope that this epidemic will soon be brought under control.
2. Henry has left the USA Operation Dawn on 6/3 and has returned to school to finish his Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering. Please continue to pray for his new life stage.
3. Student Victor finished on 6/13, and is still currently staying at Operation Dawn for further study, and is applying for a job. Please pray for him.
4. There are currently two newcomers intending to come to Operation Dawn program. Please pray that God would prepare their hearts.
5. Thank God for the great harvest of vegetables we planted in our vegetable garden this year, which is able to supply us with fresh vegetables weekly.

