



A warning sign!?

Christine Pi

Our modern advanced technology has afforded us many forms of enjoyment and entertainment. Various means of transportation for us to choose from means that we are free to travel great distances. Whether it is for work or leisure, whether it is far or near, we have been free to travel anywhere. The convenience of travel has made distance between countries hardly an unsurmountable issue. However, because of this convenience, it has also brought about the spreading of the coronavirus around the world and creating such global human panic and fear. In a very short period of time this epidemic is sweeping the world, a phenomenon that has never been seen before. Many countries are in a total blockade. Schools, work places, churches are closed, many cities announced 'shelter at place' and to work from home. People are panicking, the supermarket shelves are empty, all sweep away like a whirlwind. One pastor commented that too many people in this world only care about themselves, to the point where we not just pursue our own needs, we also snatch away the needs of others. Purchasing more goods than needed, we stock up too many items which need to be returned at a later time. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' is not just merely a slogan, it can be implemented so that we can change lives!

News from all parts of the world claim that the coronavirus pandemic continues to rise. It is impacting our lives in an unprecedented way, and each of us is going through unique challenges. The hearts of men are terrified and frightened as if the end of the world is coming. In the parable of a certain rich man, he said to himself, "I have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" Luke 12:16-20

This is just the beginning, and according to the CDC medical announcement there will be more serious times to come. During this time of crisis, God may be providing an opportunity for us to think about what really matters in life. How can we make use of the time and resources that we have and be mindful of how we spend them? "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6

Someone mentioned that reading the current events from the newspaper is like reading prophecy in the Bible. We can see the current situations developing step by step according to Bible prophecy. The world is changing so rapidly that we don't understand why things happened that way. It always reminds us that our life is short. Fulfillment of Biblical prophecy or revelation reminds us that we ought not to indulge in meaningless pursuits of life, such as clothing, food, housing, study, and work. We as Christians should be different from the rest of the world. While it doesn't mean that we don't need to attend to these needs, it does mean that we do these things from a 'heavenly point of view', to live so as to please God and according to God's purposes.

We should be more vigilant and prepared. This coronavirus pandemic reminds us to be alert, reminding us that human life itself is limited, and to seize the opportunity to live out God's love, seek to follow God closely, to do what pleases Him, and to live for the Lord. Care more about the needs of others' souls and to share God's blessings more with others. There might not be a lot of time left for some people.

May God continually be gracious and protect us so that we may be proportionate to God's grace in all things. There are, in fact, so many more challenges in life awaiting us. We need to think carefully today and appreciate everything God has given us. Let us think again about the purpose of our lives. The day of the Lord is near! Be prepared to meet your God!

"Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do to you, prepare to meet your God! " Amos 4:12

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray that God will keep the health of brothers and sisters in churches all over the world, regardless of their age, young or old, to be protected by God from the coronavirus.
2. Pray that God will keep believers' eyes fixed on God with one heart during this epidemic, supporting and encouraging each other, living out and witnessing their lives by loving and caring for each other.
3. Pray for leaders in various countries and ask God to give them wisdom to take the most effective measures to quickly stop the epidemic and treat those infected.
4. At this difficult time, may the world return to God. Let us examine and stay awake for ourselves, the nation, and the world, and ask God to forgive our sins.
5. Due to the new coronavirus pandemic, the South African government declared last week that it is now in a state of disaster, and the worship gatherings in Rustenburg and Johannesburg have been moved online. Please pray for this transition to go smoothly.
6. Rev. Douglas Wu planned to encourage brothers and sisters to learn how to lead Bible study in the Rustenburg Church. Please pray for this ministry.
7. Schools in South Africa were closed on March 18. The Pretoria Evangelical Chinese Christian Church began to worship on the internet via Zoom on March 22. Ask God to urge brothers and sisters not to be idle, although they are at home, they can still worship God with one heart.
8. Alex plans to start adult Sunday school soon, to train brothers and sisters to become future coworkers, and to use their gifts to serve God. Pray for their ministry at PECCC and ask the Lord for wisdom and kindness.
9. The church in Taiwan currently assisting in the transfer offering for Alex Ko will cease their help in June. Ask God to arrange for an alternative church or institution to take up this role.
10. Ask God to prepare brothers and sisters to participate in missions, especially to pray that God will open the way for the STM to Brazil (September) and South Africa (December), for spreading the Gospel.
11. CIM plans to recruit local leaders in the fields to join the ministry team, ask God to move brothers and sisters to participate in finance and in action to serve together in those churches that have not been led by pastors.
 1. Brazil is also implementing "self-quarantine at home". Churches have ceased to gather, and schools have been temporarily closed. Believers can only worship at home. Ask God to show His care and grant His peace to all.
 2. Pray especially for medical staff everywhere.
13. Pray for CIM Canada for their cross-cultural missions in Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Pray that God would move more brothers and sisters to care and support this ministry, and to spread the Gospel with one heart. All STM teams this year will be rescheduled.
14. Ask God to give wisdom to coworkers at CIM headquarters to complete the ministry entrusted by the Lord. Pray that God will send more believers to serve together and God's kingdom will be more prosperous.
15. Pray for God's abundant provision of all our financial needs.

Scripture Sharing

1 Kings 8:37-40

When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or when an enemy besieges them in any of their cities, whatever disaster or disease may come, and when a prayer or plea is made by any of your people Israel—each one aware of the afflictions of his own heart, and spreading out his hands toward this temple— then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act, deal with each man according to all he does, since you know his heart (for you alone know the hearts of all man), so that they will fear you all the time they live in the land you gave our fathers.

Psalms 91:5-7

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2020

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$3,634	\$6,716	-\$3,082
Missions	\$11,239	\$10,248	\$991
Total	\$14,873	\$16,964	-\$2,091

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- 2) Donate online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!



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