



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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A Promise of Hope

Rev. Isaac Quan

I first heard about the COVID-19 in late January when I was in Ghana. Back then it wasn't even known as COVID-19 yet. It was just a coronavirus that originated in China. People were dying and pretty soon they locked down the entire city of Wuhan where it all started. This seemed to be getting serious.

I didn't think too much of it, though. This virus will be contained in Asia, I thought. I was in southern China when SARS broke out. I was in Western Africa when Ebola broke out. Terrible diseases, where I had to make tough decisions with both outbreaks.

I came back to Canada. Things seemed normal. Then cases started showing up in Canada. Nothing too unusual: SARS made it to Canada too and even though people died, it was contained. But then things started blowing up quickly. My cousin lives in the Lombardy region of Italy. Everything was locked down. Then an NBA player was tested positive and the NBA was suspended; then the NHL, then essentially every sports league around the world and even the Olympics have been postponed.

Terms like social distancing, flattening the curve, PPE (personal protection equipment) became part of our language. We were told to stay home and go out only for the essentials like groceries and medication. Never before have I seen entire countries locked down all at the same time. Never before have I seen so many cities in states of emergencies. Never before have I seen so many people lose their jobs at the same time. Never before have I seen complete economies lose 70, 80, 90 per cent of their work force. Never before I have experienced a stock market crash so suddenly. People have lost their life savings, jobs, and loved ones. Never before has there been so many online church services or online anything as people started working from home. Never before has there been so many school closures and online learning became the norm. This virus has gripped this world and even how we meet our friends and family. Everything had to be done virtually now. We cannot even meet up physically with our families and loved ones. At CIM Canada, I had to make the tough decision to cancel all our summer STM trips.

As I am writing this update, there have been over 1.9 million cases confirmed worldwide with close to 124,000 deaths. These numbers grow hourly and undoubtedly the numbers are probably even higher as some places included many of the locations where CIM is ministering to are remote and there has not been much testing there. This breaks my heart.

At CIM our mandate is still to share the gospel cross-culturally especially during this pandemic. Even though we have postponed all STM trips this summer and our partners in Africa and Ukraine have cancelled church services and village school classes based upon recommendations from local and national authorities, the love of Jesus Christ needs to be spread.

Right now, I believe that prayer is of utmost importance.

All of us can pray for those affected by COVID-19 and that everyone, including villagers in rural villages in Ghana and Togo, and those in Roma settlements in Eastern Europe will turn to the Lord and get to know Him in a new and personal way.

Please also consider giving financially to CIM as our ministries overseas including the wages of church planters and village school teachers need to continue. They, too, have families they need to take care of.

The weeks and months ahead, according to experts and authorities will be tough. There will be many more confirmed cases and deaths. We need to listen to our local authorities and to continue to practice social distancing, and thank all those on the front lines, but more importantly, we need to reassess our relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ. As death is happening all around us, we remember the death of Christ on the cross. He died for our sins on Good Friday, but on Easter Sunday, He rose again.

Jesus Christ conquered death and because of that, we have hope.

Because of that, CIM exists and that is why we continue to share this Good News.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. The worldwide epidemic makes many feel helpless. As we continue to trust and look to God, pray that He fills us with hope and peace. Support and encourage each other with love and care, and work on making your life a testimony. At this difficult time, may all the people turn back to God, and ask for forgiveness.
2. Urgently pray for those working on the front line and ask God to grant them wisdom and discernment for accurate judgment of patients' illness and keep their own lives safe. Ask God to heal those who are infected and protect those who are not. In the process of responding to this epidemic and economic instability, ask God to grant wisdom to our national leaders to make the right decisions.
3. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, South Africa has entered a state of disaster. Ask the Lord to help the people of SA to cooperate with the government and fight the epidemic together.
4. The gatherings for Rustenburg and Johannesburg have been changed to worship online. Rev Douglas Wu is using this opportunity to encourage brothers and sisters at the Rustenburg Church to learn to lead Bible study.
5. Pray for Rev and Mrs. Wu to learn to use video conferencing to continue shepherding their flock. Ask God to keep them healthy physically and spiritually.
6. The Pretoria Church has started using Zoom to worship online. Ask God to urge brothers and sisters to stay committed to worshiping God with one heart even while at home. Friday Bible study classes are also restarting online. Please ask God for blessings.
7. Alex plans to start adult Sunday school to train believers to become future coworkers and use their gifts to serve God. Pray for their ministry at PECCC and ask the Lord to give wisdom and grace.
8. We thank God that the Yonghe Church in Taiwan is willing to help transfer funds for Alex Ko. Pray for the details of the arrangement of this ministry to be successfully completed.
9. CIM plans to recruit local leaders in Brazil to join the ministry team and ask God to move brothers and sisters to support financially and in action to serve together in those churches without pastors.
10. Brazil is also implementing "shelter in place" practice. Churches have stopped gatherings and schools are temporarily closed. Believers can only worship at home. Pray for God's favor and peace.
11. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of brothers and sisters to participate in missions. Furthermore, pray for God's guidance on whether this year's STM trips to Brazil (Sept) and SA (Dec) will go forth to open a way for the Gospel.
12. Pray for CIM Canada's cross-cultural ministries in Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Ask God to move more brothers and sisters to support this ministry and work together to spread the Gospel.
13. Ask God to give the coworkers of CIM headquarters the wisdom to do their duties to complete the ministry entrusted by the Lord. Pray that God will send more believers to serve so God's kingdom will be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision of all our financial needs.

We are bombarded every hour with news and information about COVID-19. While it is important to know the facts, it is more important to listen to God's voice. In closing, I would like to quote God's voice through the Scriptures; words of comfort that we need to hold on to during these very tough times.

Deuteronomy 31:8 The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 2020

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$2,885	\$7,695	-\$4,810
Missions	\$9,584	\$7,824	\$1,760
Total	\$12,469	\$15,519	-\$3,050

To contribute to CIM ministries:

- 1) Make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
- 2) Donate online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!



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