



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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For When I am Weak, Then I am Strong

Theresa Poon

I suppose future generations cannot imagine how we lived through this time of COVID-19, just as we cannot imagine how people lived through the Spanish flu in 1918-1920. Back then, a total of 500 million people was infected, constituting one-third of world population. Being glued to the news as the virus first broke out in China January 2020, I saw people infected, dying, and kept praying it could be contained. And contained soon. When the number of infected reached 100,000 and began to reach other countries, I could no longer fathom how big the scope of this virus has become.

Then March 17 marked the date California came to a lockdown. SIP, "Shelter in Place", became a term forever seared into our minds. Just as everyone remember where they were and what they were doing as the twin towers collapsed on 9/11 in 2001, I'm sure you remember where you were and what you were doing when SIP was declared, in whatever state, or country, you are.

As I wrote this article, 29 million people have been infected throughout the world. Close to 200,000 people have already perished from COVID-19 in the US, with close to 15,000 in California alone. People are losing hope as this pandemic does not look like it'll be contained anytime soon. We don't know how many of those heard of the name Jesus and have Him as their Lord and Savior but presumably enough did not. I can only imagine how this large number of lost souls grieved our Father.

Yet if you had an opportunity to walk outside to a state or national park, or just to your neighborhood park, and look at God's creation, you'll see that the hills and waters didn't change. The birds and the squirrels kept flying and running around. They didn't change. God is not in lockdown; He is across the street and around the world. Although our circumstances changed, and changed in a catastrophic way, what should not change?

Our faith in Him should not falter. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He is the beginning and the end.

Our trust in Him should not waver. He is El Shaddai, the Lord God Almighty.

Our hope in Him should not perish. He is El Olam, the Everlasting God.

Our praises to Him should be new every day. He is Jehovah Shalom, the Lord is Peace.

Our prayers to Him should not cease. He allows us to call Him Abba Father.

This pandemic has also affected missionaries everywhere as well. Many have been sent home to the U.S. by their mission organizations as their adopted countries were deemed not adequate to handle the influx of cases during earlier months. But as the situation worsened in America, they were unable to return to their fields as those countries have banned travelers from the U.S. Many have tried repeatedly for countries to open, with a mandatory 14-day quarantine and negative COVID-19 test results no less.

To be sure, COVID will greatly influence how we do missions. On the challenging side, with borders closed, it will be harder for those called to go to enter into the fields; virtual access alone would render much of the developing and under-developed countries without access to the Good News, both because they might not own mobile phones and/or they lack the know-hows to use them. On the encouraging side, more people are drawn to examine the meaning of their lives and what will be their ultimate destinies. Geographic restraints are being broken as targets are more likely to access the messengers and the messages.



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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please continue to pray for Douglas and Whitney as they adapt to the challenges posed to their ministry from the pandemic, and now they face the change to revert back to in-person meetings! Also ask the Holy Spirit to bestow peace and that things can go back to normal soon.
2. The children's Sunday school online classes are facing the impact from schools reopening in September. Please ask God to provide a meeting time suitable for everyone.
3. Please continue to pray for the brothers and sisters in the Rustenburg church who are shop owners, and ask the Holy Spirit to keep them safe from the coronavirus.
4. Please continue to pray for Rev. Wu's daughter Helen and son Clarence with their internship work in the hospitals. Please also pray for daughter Sharon as she starts to learn how to serve the Lord.
5. Crimes in South Africa are still rampant and three Chinese were killed in August alone! Please pray for the safety of the Chinese people and the overall crime situation.
6. Ask God to guide the spiritual growth of the brothers and sisters of the Pretoria Evangelical Chinese Christian Church, so they could be a church befitting God's will.
7. Ask God to lead the ministry of Alex and Nicole Ko in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Ask God to protect them during their visitations and remove obstacles in their online meetings. Pray for their children Samuel and Isaaca while they learn how to pray at home, and for God to provide wisdom to Nicole in teaching them.
8. Please pray for the worsening COVID-19 situation in Brazil and ask God to slow down the infection rate.
9. Please pray for the Brazilian Chinese community, as they are mostly small business owners who suffer greater impact in the pandemic.
10. Please pray for each Chinese church congregation in Brazil and ask God to keep them safe from coronavirus.
11. Pray for CIM Canada's cross-cultural evangelical ministry in Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Ask God for wisdom and guidance on the timing for the STM team to go to work in the harvest field.
12. Pray for God to provide CIM Canada more financial support in 2020. Although much of their ministry has been suspended, but they still must bear the financial obligations to their working partners in supporting pioneering work in local churches and teachers in village schools.
13. Ask God to provide wisdom to CIM co-workers in performing their duties in the ministry entrusted by the Lord. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to join the service so God's kingdom would be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision for all the financial needs of CIM.

One of the new normal has seen most of us in front of our computer screen, working, studying, meeting, attending workshops and conferences virtually. One take-away from the recent *Lusanne* Diaspora Virtual Summit I attended, a worldwide mission movement, was a video of believers from 177 churches in Singapore singing "*The Blessings*". May we indeed count our blessings day by day, praising our Holy Father in heaven, casting doubts and fears and despair away. The Great Commandment is still God's mandate to all of us, His followers. If anything, this pandemic should have awakened all saints to earnestly pray for the lost and share His Good News to anyone God put in our path each day (physically and virtually)—whether it be the supermarket store clerk, a neighbor, a classmate, a coworker, a family member, a friend. Amen.

FINANCIAL REPORT

August 2020

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$8,862	\$7,047	\$1,815
Missions	\$8,066	\$6,257	\$1,809
Total	\$16,928	\$13,304	\$3,624

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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