

Prayer Letter of Douglas Wu and Family

March 1, 2020

On February 2, in our Sunday night Bible study at Rustenburg, a topic of discussion was COVID-19. We knew in the ensuing two weeks many people were due to return to South Africa from their trips to China for the Lunar New Year holiday. In light of the rapid spread of the virus in China and with an incubation period of at least two weeks, we prayed and agreed to temporarily suspend all worship and Bible study meetings. Instead, online meetings and podcasts will be used until the end of February, and we also prayed for the possibility to resume normal meetings in early March, pending the situation of the virus infections. Brothers and sisters also knew about our routine of staying overnight at Rustenburg in order to do visitations on the next day, which could run into many people who recently returned from China. So for our well being they urged Whitney and I to return to Pretoria that night instead. But around 10:30 PM, as we traveled by N4 Highway on our way home, we suddenly came under attack by rocks. The criminals hid in the highway median among the grass, which had grown to about 1.5M high due to the recent rains. They throw rocks at cars going towards Pretoria, intending to cause damage and thereby forcing the cars to stop, and then they could rob the people in the car!



The Rustenburg Bible study group



The right rear view mirror of my car was destroyed but the body was not damaged.

Praise the Lord! If the rock was thrown by a tiny fraction of a second earlier, or if my car was a tiny fraction of a second slower, that rock would've hit my windshield right in front of me, and the outcome would've been unthinkable! *Psalm 27:1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?"* When the rock hit the car it sounded like an explosion and Whitney screamed hysterically: "Lord! Save us!" At first I thought the car engine had blown up, yet the car was still running fine. Then I thought a window glass had broken but that wasn't it either, and finally I saw the right rear view mirror was destroyed. I didn't stop but I slowed down and moved to the outside lane. At that moment an older BMW passed me but moved into my lane and slowed down in front of me. Whitney saw four black men were in the car so she yelled at me to quickly speed up! I passed them and then they passed me again, and then there was a truck in front of me. I saw that no car was coming in the opposite direction so I accelerated to pass the truck, and then I realized the BMW stopped following us! We finished the drive home full of thanksgiving and recalled King David's saying of "I am but a step from death".



Tuesday night Bible study in Johannesburg Wednesday night Bible study Praying for sister Lin's ailment

The meetings of the Johannesburg church were also suspended in early February. Because the Johannesburg population has the most merchants and also the most people returned from China, the atmosphere in the city was tense and unpredictable. It was especially true at Sandton, where lots of Chinese congregate. There was an awkward incident in late January when brother Zhu and I met at the white church for one-on-one Bible study. The new pastor of the church (whose wife is a Chinese from Hong Kong) asked us to first wash our hands and then to put on face masks! This incident illustrated the sensitivity of South Africans to COVID-19. Separately, the two families hosting our new Bible study fellowships in Johannesburg have just returned from China in early January, so they have been staying at home out of caution. But they've also expressed the desire to continue the weekly Bible study. *Psalm 31:19 "How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you."*



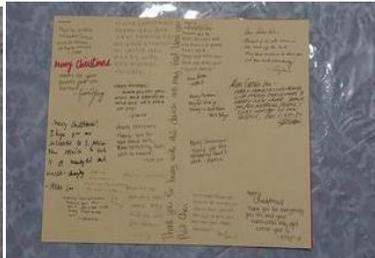
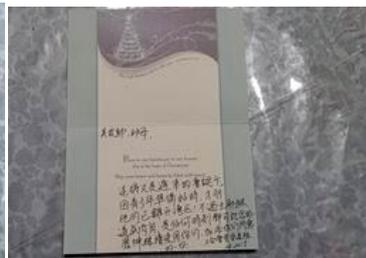
Helen home for Valentine's Day



Brother Liu returned from Taiwan



Thankful for the Christmas cards



In the scripture Paul asked if he has the right to food and drink because of the gospel, the right to take a believing wife, or is it only he and Barnabas who must work for a living? Paul continued to say "But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ." We had assumed the impact of COVID-19 on Rustenburg was less severe, but the Holy Spirit prevented us to continue our meetings! On the other hand I had felt the virus impact was greater in Johannesburg, yet God miraculously allowed us to continue our evening Bible study fellowships! We heard the rebuke from others telling us not to stop meeting, and that we shouldn't test God. We could but only rely on God and follow Him closely! May God help us to be the loyal and good servants.

Proverbs 8:32~35 "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD."



Grass in highway median over 1.5M tall



A cup in Rustenburg Bible study



They're eager to resume fellowship

We went to Rustenburg on February 27 for visitation, and we thank the Lord that all brothers and sisters were safe! When we were discussing about whether to resume meeting on March 1, we heard the news about the lockdown of the city of Fuqing in Fujian province, as well as the spread of infection in Europe and the 3 new cases in Africa. We

therefore agreed to wait for two more weeks; hopefully we'd be able to resume Sunday worship on March 15.



Visitation in Rustenburg on February 27 seeking everyone's view on resuming meetings

... **Our blog - <http://douglaswufamily.blogspot.tw/>**

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Praises & Intercession

1. Praise the Lord so far all brothers and sisters in South Africa are free of COVID-19 infection.
2. Praise the Lord for the spiritual armor we have in winning the battles against the devil, as well as in traffic safety. The damaged rear view mirror has been replaced and everyone is also fine.
3. Praise the Lord that Helen has started serving as a pianist in the Christ Church Welkom. God is good!
4. Praise the Lord for we had much time in February to pray, and to seek God's guidance in our path and the vision for our ministry.
5. Praise the Lord for the opportunity in February to have more connection and intercession with brothers and sisters through social media, as well as to worship via podcast.

Prayer List

1. We are disappointed for the cancellation of a long-awaited seminar on family relationship for end of March due to COVID-19. Please pray for God's hand in quelling this virus infection quickly and hopefully the seminar can be rescheduled.
2. Pray for our Rustenburg and Johannesburg fellowships to be able to resume meeting by March 15.
3. Pray for peace and progress in our Tuesday and Wednesday Bible study groups. We're now studying John 9, may God continue to lead us.
4. In February there were two robberies against Chinese on the road between Rustenburg and Johannesburg. Please pray for the safety of our brothers in their weekly travels to Johannesburg for merchandise.
5. Pray for God to provide a pianist for our worship.

6. Pray for Clarence in his plan in next year to apply for transfer to study formal dentistry or medicine. Hopefully he'll have good grades this year for the application.
7. Pray for Helen's South Africa birth certificate application process as we wait for God's timing.
8. Pray for South Africa's political and crime situations. May God watch over the South African Chinese people and that they may enjoy peace in Jesus Christ.

Immanuel,
Clarence/Helen/Sharon Whitney/Douglas