

Prayer Letter of Douglas Wu and Family

April 1, 2020

On March 7, South Africa reported its first positive COVID-19 case. On that night, the right rear view mirror of our car parked on the driveway was vandalized! On March 11, four new cases of COVID-19 were reported. Again on that night, we found a 30cm long dead snake left on our driveway, and we never had any snake sighting in our area for the past 16 years! Then on March 13, another four new COVID-19 cases were reported, and a potted cactus in our courtyard was pushed over! We were certain an unfriendly newcomer has moved into our neighborhood.



Rear view mirror vandalized on 3/7 30cm long dead snake found on 3/11 Cactus pot overturned on 3/13

The events in March bothered Whitney. But what troubled me more was the need to prevent the spread of coronavirus to our host church from the many Chinese people who returned from China just after Lunar New Year. In reality, I needed to avoid being infected and not to infect others! We've stopped our Sunday worship service beginning the second week of February, but thank the Lord that our Bible studies and visitations were able to be continued, and I started to send out audio recordings of my sermon to brothers and sisters. But after March 7, when a spike of new confirmed cases occurred, two pastors told me they'd stop all meetings in their churches and asked about my plans. Little did we know the South Africa government was already planning a nationwide lockdown at that time!

Jeremiah 33: 1~3 "While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the LORD came to him a second time: 'This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it – the LORD is his name: Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'" I remember in 2003, when I was interning in the Shipah Presbyterian Church in Taiwan when SARS hit. Brothers and sisters wore face masks during worship, fellowship, and visitations. I even wore a face mask when I led the worship! And when a major earthquake hit in Taiwan in 1999, our seminary took us students to help with relief works at the disaster area. We witnessed rows of bodies on the ground, and yet we kept our Sunday worship services without fail.



Taiwan 2003 during SARS COVID-19 victims placed in a church in Italy Taiwan 1999 earthquake victims

But under the current lockdown I can't go visit our brothers and sisters, to have fellowship, hold Bible study, or to worship together! I cried out to God that the seminary didn't teach me how to handle these situations, and I asked Him to guide me for I really don't know what to do! I continued to pray for brothers and sisters, and I texted scriptures and sent sermon podcasts to them. I also heard others mention tools such as WeChat video, Line, Whatsapp video, and another one called Zoom, can be useful. I recall seeing my seminary president's Youtube video on Facebook before. But Lord! Please help me! I've never used and I don't know how to use any of those tools!

Jeremiah 33:6 "Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security." Through His miraculous ways, God arranged for Rustenburg's brothers and sisters to teach me how to use WeChat video for our Bible study fellowship. Brother Zhao at Hangzhou, China, helped to install Zoom app for me, and then God arranged for brother Yang from New Zealand to help me get started. God's grace also helped Whitney to adopt the use of Line app in her Thursday Women's Fellowship so they can continue their meetings. Furthermore, after the nationwide lockdown started, God arranged for sister Helen at Free State to teach me, through Clarence, to use Youtube to broadcast my Sunday sermons beginning March 29! Hallelujah!



Rustenburg Bible study via video chat



0329-2020
觀看次數：169次 · 1 天前

Sunday worship recording broadcast on Youtube



Women's Fellowship via Line app Delivering food to Clarence in quarantine Whitney cooking during lockdown

Isaiah 46:3~4 "Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

Clarence's teacher was diagnosed to have COVID-19 on March 2 and had to be quarantined, and so was another student on March 13! When we visited Clarence we had to stand outside of the door, but he returned home safely on March 24 as the government ordered all students to leave schools after the lockdown started.

Helen's situation is different because as an intern, she has to stay behind in the hospital to help. Since her hospital is in a more rural area, there aren't any confirmed COVID-19 cases yet, but she'd need to assist three other hospitals in the area if called upon. We're thankful that she isn't in fear because of COVID-19, but rather she's upset about the unfair system and about all the face masks that got stolen from the hospital in one night.

I thank the Lord to have saved me. My past life was like the burnt grape vine that was discarded in the fire, and it was Jesus who pulled me out of the fire and replanted me so I could grow again, even to bear spiritual fruits! God blessed me even more so I can serve Him! A brother in Christ sent me the following text, and I'd like to ask you to meditate on it with me: "Can I ask you a question? Do you live your life for God? Don't fool me with just any answer. Is it really for God? Is it truly for God? If we open our hearts and expose our true intentions, can we see that you're doing what God wants you to do? Or you're doing what you want yourself by using God's name? This is the question."

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

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Praises & Intercession

1. Praise the Lord that He kept all the Chinese in South Africa safe and nobody was confirmed with COVID-19 infection, which also avoided anti-Chinese incidents.
2. Praise the Lord that He stopped Satan's workers from harassing us, and we experienced once again the grace of God through prayer!
3. Praise the Lord that Helen's hospital hasn't had any COVID-19 cases. May the Lord also give her a joyful heart.
4. Praise the Lord Clarence is safe after experiencing COVID-19 cases by his teacher and fellow student, for the Lord has built protection around him.
5. Praise the Lord we were able to worship through tools like WeChat, Line, Zoom, and Youtube. God is great with His power!
6. Praise the Lord that Whitney has been patient with my experimentation. Because of her help, we're able to embark on a new journey in worship through high tech.

Prayer for the global COVID-19 epidemic

Lord Jesus, who sits on the throne and reign in all the worlds, we beseech you because of the global COVID-19 epidemic! May you direct the angels Cherubim, Seraphim, Mahanaim, Gabriel, and Archangel Michael, to lead the twelve battalions of angels, fiery chariots and horses, to build forts around brothers and sisters worldwide, to watch and protect us from the fiery arrows of Satan, and to protect us from the harm of coronavirus. Cover us with your precious blood and the Holy Spirit, so we may safely pass through this infection and be good witnesses for you. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Prayer List

1. Pray for the South Africa nationwide lockdown to end on April 16, and more importantly, for the coronavirus infection to be under control and end quickly.
2. Pray for God to strengthen the faith of the brothers and sisters, so they can consistently use new tools to maintain their Bible study fellowship, Sunday worship, and prayers, to be close to God.
3. Clarence's school is discussing with the government to have the students return to Johannesburg State Hospital on April 6 to help with the COVID-19 situation. Please pray for God to give His guidance.
4. Clarence is praying for his plan next year to apply for transfer to either formal dentistry study or to medical study. Hopefully he'll have good grades this year to help with the application.



5. Following the government's order, we plan to have one of us to go to the supermarket next Thursday for supplies. Please ask God for peace.
6. Please continue to pray for Helen's South Africa birth certificate application and in waiting for God's timing.
7. Please continue to pray for South Africa's political and crime situations. May God watch over the South African Chinese people and that they may have peace in Jesus Christ.

Please send donations to: **Chinese International Missions**

P.O.Box 700185, San Jose, CA. 95170-0185, U.S.A (Specify "For Douglas Wu")

Immanuel

Clarence/Helen/Sharon Whitney/Douglas