



Prayer Letter of Douglas Wu and Family

June 1, 2020

As South Africa enters the ninth week of national lockdown due to COVID-19, many people are unemployed and even more are starving to death! After repeated protests along with looting of stores and food delivery trucks, the president announced the lockdown would be relaxed from Level 4 to Level 3 on June 1. That means people can go back to work in businesses and factories that follow health protection protocols, but gatherings in churches and public places are still banned. Inter-state travels remain restricted, and people are still required to stay home; leisure travel and visiting of friends and relatives are prohibited. The only allowable excuses to be out of the house are going to work and shopping for essential daily necessities. Actually in Level 3 lockdown, other than the permitted back to work, there isn't much difference from before. Many details are still as unclear as when the lockdown first started! Now as the daily count of new infections and deaths are continually rising, but the testing and medical resources are clearly inadequate, I'm afraid the situation is slowing reaching the boiling point!



Earlier people without masks in Rustenburg



The president ordered wearing of mask in May



We've seen again the frailty and weakness of man in this coronavirus pandemic, and wisdom and common sense are also very lacking! Many countries are pouring all resources to study the virus and searching for the cure. Yet so far all efforts still cannot defeat the miniscule virus that is also part of God's creation. Especially in Africa, South Africa included, there isn't any effective countermeasure in force, and it's sad that people still don't repent and seek help from God! Instead, people reach for mammon (money) along with acts of injustice and unrighteousness. For example, our brothers and sisters who own shops in Rustenburg faced unreasonable rent increases from the landlords. They had to pay half the rent in April even though all the shops were ordered closed! The greedy landlords then raised the amount to 75% rent for May, and some even demanded full rent. Although the shops are allowed to open in May, but they're restricted to sell only winter clothes, blankets, and shoes, which are less than 30% of their inventory. The landlords ignored the call by the president for all to endure through the pandemic together! Besides helping brothers and sisters to write letters to the landlords appealing for lower rents, we also prayed intently for the Holy Spirit to help. Praise the Lord that prayer is again proven much more effective than letter writing! The Holy Spirit intervened and moved few landlords to lower the rents. *Matthew 6:33 "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you*

as well.”



Clear plastic sheets in shops to prevent virus transmission through air Sunday night online video meeting

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” *John 16:33* “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” We thank the Lord for keeping the Rustenburg brothers and sisters safe, and that no one has been infected by the coronavirus.

God not only protected our physical wellbeing, the Holy Spirit also built a fortress around us for our spiritual wellbeing. In mid-May, a sister of another Chinese church in Johannesburg forwarded a text of the opening announcement from a heretic group “Good News Chinese Church of South Africa”. My online research found this group originated in Korea and spread to China, then it came to Africa in March of this year. Miraculously, around the same time, Holy Spirit moved my friend from the seminary, Rev. Lo of the Lisbon Chinese Church in Portugal, to send me material from a seminar on identifying heresy, which I immediately forwarded to all the brothers and sisters in Johannesburg. Praise the Lord that Jesus is our true shepherd. *John 10:4~5* “When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” God watches over us so that we also have peace in our spirit.



Heretic group’s advertisement Seminar on identifying heresy Sunday online worship of CCS church

In May, I read again the book “Worldviews in Collision”. I had first read the book when it was published in 2002, and I felt its discussion on humanism and post-modernism is still relevant today. In the book it mentioned, “The intellectuals of the world, whether Chinese or not, commonly hold an impression of Christianity as being meek and passive, and Christians as a group of weak and outdated people. They beg others to go to church, truly

trying to help people with their problems, and patiently repeating the story of the gospel, with phrases of “Praise the Lord” and “Thank the Lord” always in their vocabulary. So how can those people be the group of elite to command change in the world? How can they be the hope of the society and the country? To be a post-modern man is to abandon the baggage of tradition, be freed from the shackles of religion; be self-confident and to surpass oneself in pursuit of excellence!” But we know the result of abandoning belief in the Truth is certain moral decline. May the Lord help us to be steadfast on the traditions He has laid and be faithful in fulfilling the Great Commission.



Sharon serving as sermon translator Whitney helps with sermon recordings Whitney's Wednesday cell group



Two additions to Practical Bible Study training Rustenburg Thursday Bible Study Immunity boosting medicine

Both Whitney and I have a full schedule of video online fellowship meetings. On Sunday nights we have the Rustenburg church Bible study, Practical Bible Study with Johannesburg church on Tuesday mornings, small group fellowship on Wednesday mornings, followed by Covid prayer meetings on Wednesday nights, one-on-one with Brother Liu of Johannesburg on Thursday mornings, and Thursday nights we have the other Rustenburg church Bible study. Our counseling schedules are even busier, everyone has lots to say for being locked up at home for so long, and Whitney is a good listener! 😊



God sent “Ravens” to supply meat to us The Covid prayer group Our first online wedding ceremony



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Praises & Intercession

1. Praise the Lord that He led two more brothers to join our Practical Bible Study training in Johannesburg.
2. Praise the Lord that brothers and sisters were able to obtain immunity boosting medicine for everyone through the connection with the Fujian members association.
3. Praise the Lord that we were invited to our first online wedding ceremony via Zoom in these changing times. Our best wishes for the newlyweds.
4. Praise the Lord that national lockdown in South Africa was lowered to Level 3 on June 1, and the government declared success in the lockdown policy so far.
5. Thanks for the Holy Spirit for keeping us safe, as well as giving us joy and hope while facing the coronavirus pandemic, so that we can see God's glory.

Prayer List

1. Please pray for the two Bible study groups in Johannesburg that were just started beginning this year but haven't had a video online meeting yet. Pray that the passion doesn't cool off.
2. Please pray for the path ahead of Sharon, our eldest daughter, as her Practical Training visa expires by end of July.
3. Our second daughter, Helen, lives at the town of Welkom during her internship at the Odendaalsrus Provincial Hospital, about 15 km away. There are two confirmed COVID-19 patients in isolation in the hospital. Please pray for the hospital to have rigorous protection in place and for their safety.
4. The school of our son, Clarence, has notified all 3rd year and above students, along with all interns, to return to school on June 8 to help in the hospital, because 30 employees in the Johannesburg hospital have contracted coronavirus and are in isolation. Clarence said the dental students have all agreed to go and help as soon as called by the government. Please remember this in your prayers.
5. Please pray for me as I need to prepare a sermon each week and to publish online, and I feel I need more time for prayer.
6. Pray for God to strengthen the faith of brothers and sisters, and to continue to have online Bible study, worship, and prayers via the various video apps.
7. The South African currency has devalued more than 20% so the cost of living has risen as result, except for gasoline which has actually dropped in cost, but we can't go out of the house! Please remember us in your prayers.



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Immanuel,

Clarence/Helen/Sharon Whitney/Douglas