

## Prayer Letter of Douglas Wu and Family

October 1, 2020

South African citizens can start to travel across state lines since the government lowered the nationwide lockdown to Level 2. Whitney and I took the opportunity in early September to travel to Rustenburg and spent two nights there. We went to visit the homes and shops of brothers and sisters, where we spent time to catch up, share updates and thanksgivings, and prayed together. We witnessed how the brothers and sisters persevered under the difficult situation, in which they had to implement full set of protective measures against COVID-19 while under financial pressure from reduced business income and continued rent payments. Yet everyone testified that God's grace has provided strength for them through the ordeal thus far. Whitney and I truly admire their faith and we give thanks to God for His protection in the past four months. *Isaiah 43:1~2 "But now, this is what the LORD says – he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel; 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.'"*



The shops of various brothers and sisters with protective measures against the coronavirus



Staying in brother Huang's house



Blackout during brother Lin's birthday party



Baby Zheng at one month

We were saddened to hear sister Yu has closed her business. It was because someone manipulated to take over the lease when her original contract expired, and as result she lost the right to continue her business there. And this happened just as when she and her family were planning to reopen the business after enduring the shutdown and lack of income! But sister Yu submitted before God and said she'd follow the teaching from the Bible of not to revenge, leave room for God's wrath, and let God avenge and repay. We firmly believe God will provide a better outcome for her. Many other brothers and sisters also actively pitched in to help her to auction the inventory and move out of the shop. God's love will give her strength to stand up again from this unfortunate incident.



Brothers and sisters helping sister Yu to clear out inventory in preparation to close the business

*1 Corinthian 12:26~27 "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."* The employees of sister Zhang complained to CCMA (agency for employer and employees arbitration) and the judgment ordered her to pay 70,000 rand as compensation. Since she couldn't continue to run the business by herself as her family is away, so she prepared to sell her business and then return to China. Whitney and I could only listen and pray with her through WeChat for seven days. God has answered her prayers and a buyer was found by end of September. She thanks God for the release from her agony.

In September I was invited to participate in the online mission conference of CCIC San Jose. I was inspired to see the evangelical work can continue under any circumstances, even with a lockdown in effect due to the coronavirus. I also give praises to God for opening the global evangelical ministry to a new era through Silicon Valley high-tech. As I was impressed by the brothers and sisters in high-tech using their gifts from God to further God's work, I was also humbled and reminded myself to continue to update and equip myself, so I can continue to be a useful vessel for God.



Participating in CCIC San Jose's virtual mission conference

The pioneering work in Johannesburg continued with visitations and fellowships after the relaxing of the lockdown. But the coronavirus infection rate in this largest commercial city is still the highest in the country, so we're all still very cautious, especially since there have been reports of confirmed positive cases in Chinatown and Chinese wholesale area. Brothers and sisters couldn't agree on when to resume in-person meetings, and most wanted to wait and see.



Tuesday Bible study group potluck



Visitations in Johannesburg



The pastor of our host church in Johannesburg has informed me that they planned to resume some in-person meetings in October by following conditions set by the government, while still continuing the online meetings in parallel. But he also clearly requested us not to resume our in-person meetings just yet and invited me to attend a meeting on October 20 to discuss the government regulations, focusing on the sanitation requirements of the meeting areas. Separately, pastor Jacky of the Rustenburg Baptist Church informed me they have had two confirmed cases in the congregation, along with four family members. Please pray for these challenges which we're facing! *Psalm 25:5 "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."* *Psalm 25:21 "May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you."* May God guide us to resume in-person meetings at His time and keep all of our brothers and sisters safe.



With brother Gao in Rustenburg



Many online prayer meetings during lockdown



Kids home to see us



South Africa wildlife: Hyena



Lion



Jackal



Lioness

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

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### Praises & Intercession

1. South Africa government has lowered the nationwide lockdown to Level 1. We give thanksgiving for brothers and sisters have learned to be more reliant on God and for safety from coronavirus. May God bestow peace upon us.
2. Brother Gao Min of Rustenburg church had a recurrence of an illness of his lungs.



God worked miraculously through brother Huang to provide an imported respirator in time to help brother Gao, who was then able to see a doctor for treatment and is now recovering. Hallelujah!

3. Praise the Lord for leading Whitney and I to participate in the virtual mission conference of CCIC San Jose, which went off smoothly and gave us much inspiration.
4. Thanksgiving for the Lord for sending His words and grace to help me with my weekly sermon preparation, and that I also have more time to pray to Him.
5. Praise the Lord for keeping the online children's Sunday school classes going without problems and are not impacted by the reopening of the schools. The Lord is our help!
6. Thanksgiving for the safety of daughter Helen and son Clarence, who both worked in the hospital for their internship, and for Clarence to have made it to the final exam.
7. Praise the Lord for healing brother Lin's recurrence of a throat inflammation, and helping him to regain his weight.

### Prayer List

1. Please continue to pray for us as we face the challenge to revert back to in-person meetings. Ask God to provide a suitable process, or to have online and in-person meetings in parallel. Ask God for a clear direction to lead us.
2. Rustenburg Baptist Church reported positive COVID-19 cases and thus the two-week quarantine is required. Please pray for our safety.
3. Please remember the Tuesday and Wednesday night Bible study groups in Johannesburg which have suspended meetings. I had planned to visit them but they asked to postpone the visit to October out of fear of infection. Please pray for their faiths could be strengthened and for the Lord to bestow peace upon them.
4. 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.
5. Please pray for the meetings scheduled with our host churches in Rustenburg and Johannesburg to discuss when we can use the venues again. Hopefully the meetings can resolve the issues of sanitation requirements so we can resume in-person meetings. Ask the Holy Spirit to act by abiding God's will.
6. Pray for daughter Helen's application for medical school next year as she completes her physical therapist training. If successful then she'd begin her 3-year study in 2022 plus one more year of internship. Please also pray for son Clarence could



successfully graduate by end of this year.

7. Please continue to pray for daughter Helen and son Clarence with their internship work in the hospitals and protect them from the coronavirus.
8. Crimes in South Africa are still rampant! Please pray for the safety of the Chinese people and the overall crime situation.

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