



香港萬國宣道浸信差會
Hong Kong ABWE Mission

P.O.Box No. 70834, Kowloon Central Post Office, Kln., Hong Kong
Email: mission@abwemhk.org Website: http://www.abwemhk.org
Tel: (852)-3422-3350 Fax: (852)-2786-4786

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鍾少溪宣教士代禱信 Prayer Letter from the Desk of Barnabas



Mobile: (27)-732-711-461 Email: chungbarnabas@gmail.com P.O.Box 2049, Westville, 3630, South Africa

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Dear prayer partners,

During the pandemic, people distance from one another, and even distance from God. According to Exodus 24:1-11, we are reminded that we should hold onto three Cs as we have made a covenant with God through we are made subject of God:

1. **C**ompanion: Interaction with God (Exodus 24:1-2; 9-11)

On behalf of the Israelis, the following representatives made the covenant with God: Mosses, Aaron, Aaron's eldest son Nadab and second son Abihu, as well as 70 elders of Israel. They worshipped God, watched God's throne, ate and drank and interacted with one another. May we, as God's subject who had made a covenant with God, always interact with God regardless of whether we join the real Sunday Service or not.



2. **C**ompliance: Do what God tell (Exodus 24:3-4 upper; 7 and 8 upper)

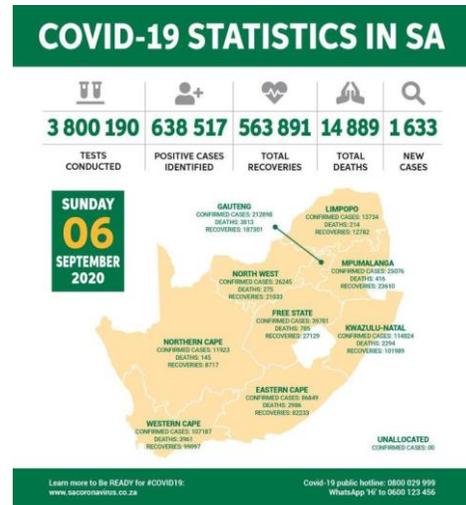
Israelis made a covenant with God and were determined to comply with God's words. They repeatedly declared: "All the words which the LORD hath said will we do", and they became God's subject with their clothes splashed with blood of sacrifices. Hope that we who become God's subject through Jesus' blood, will do what God tell us to do regardless of what circumstances we face.

3. **C**ommitment: be a living sacrifice (Exodus: 24: 4- 6 lower)

Israelis made a covenant with God, making burnt offerings and peace offerings to God. While the burnt offering was wholly dedicated to God, part of the peace offering was shared among people. Hope that we, as God's subject who have made a covenant with God, should sacrifice our bodies as living sacrifices, and dedicate everything to God in all aspects of life including work, rest, entertainment, travel, activities and study, etc. We should be used by God and live a life to witness God's goodness.

The coronavirus in South Africa

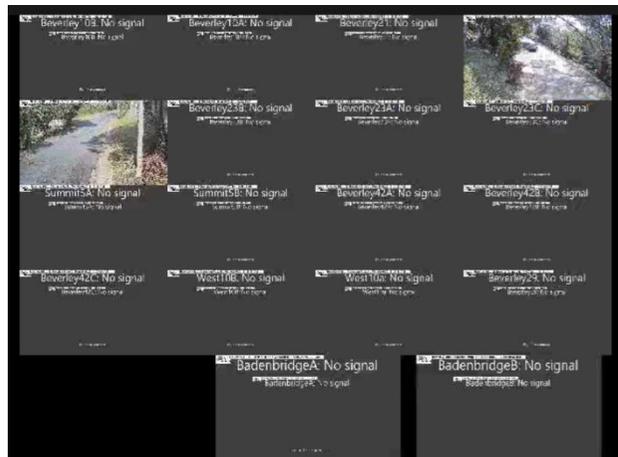
Since the first case was confirmed on 5/3, the number of confirmed cases has exceeded 630,000. South Africa once ranked 5th highest in terms of the number of confirmed cases in the world, and the ranking has descended to 7th recently, with over 2,000 new confirmed cases every day., over 1,000 on 6/9, the recovery rate reached 90%. Thanks be to God! The level of lockdown has been lowered to level two. Businesses have resumed operating with anti-pandemic measures in place. The sale of tobacco and liquor has also been partially resumed.



As quite a lot of police officers have been infected with the disease, some police stations have to close down for quarantine, resulting in security issues throughout the country. There have been more burglaries and thefts in the region we inhabit recently. We often received reminders of keeping safe from the neighbour mutual help group. More monitoring devices were installed in the region, while everyone

kept vigilant of the surroundings. However, as there were constantly power shortages, the devices could not detect anything under the circumstance.

We heard sounds of alarms, siren and choppers patrolling every day. As this is the case in a region where every



home is protected by security companies and police station situated nearby, you can imagine the terrible situations people may encounter in other vulnerable districts.

South Africa is not only devastated by the pandemic, she is also badly hit by surge in crimes, the corruption in relation to the purchase of anti-pandemic equipment, millions of unemployment, and severe sexual crimes, poverty, starvation and constant power shortages. The government has no clue as to what to do. Pray that God may grant wisdom to the government.

Short-term mission trip to South Africa

Barnabas, who receives limited support, was thrilled to learn that the largest short-term mission team would be sent by the Morrison church. The nine-person team was supposed to come to help during Easter.

Unexpectedly, the coronavirus pandemic took a toll on the world. The trip has to be rescheduled for 18/12/2020-2/1/2021. Barnabas was worried that the team members may withdraw because of this.

Unexpectedly, the delay brought by the pandemic did not obstruct brothers and sisters of the Morrison church from fighting for God. The number of team members increased to 12 instead of decreasing. This has uplifted Barnabas!

The test came again. The pandemic on both sides has not been stabilized. No one knows when the international flights will be resumed and when the 14-day quarantine will be cancelled. Only God knows. The uncertainties have adversely affected Barnabas' plan for the short-term mission trip. Please pray for the trip.

The Chinese in South Africa

As the pandemic is under control in China as opposed to the severe situation in South Africa, many Chinese flew back to China by repatriation flight arranged by the Chinese government. Since the demand is great, the number of flights has been increased to 1 per week in September.



Mr Chung Chi-wai, President of Northern Chinese Association in Southern Africa was robbed and killed by armed criminals on 13/8/2020.

The tragedy has aroused enormous response in the

circle of Chinese. The Chinese community of South Africa deeply mourned his death, and a committee formed by over several hundreds people held a memorial ceremony for him.

The tragedy also led to a petition addressed to the President of South Africa in respect of over 20 deaths of Chinese people in South Africa during 2008-2020. In the petition, signatories urged the government to keep Chinese people safe and arrest, punish those evil people committing the crimes.

Although schools have been resumed, the Chinese parents dared not to send children to schools. The children were kept at home to attend online classes, and some children could not do so due to low English proficiency. The parents would rather forfeit the tuition and accommodation fees paid earlier this year. The above shows that the Chinese are worried about another outbreak may occur.

The situation of the church

As most of the brothers and sisters engaging in business have to take care of their employees and the great demand for medical gear, they have to continue operating their businesses during the pandemic. They are cautious when it comes to attending the church.

The lockdown has been lowered to level two. The local churches have resumed real Sunday Services one by one with anti-pandemic measures in place. However, the Chinese churches still put safety the first and foremost and still conduct gatherings or Sunday Services online.

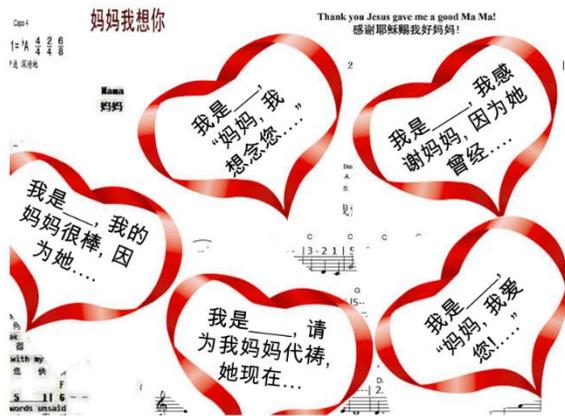
Thanks be to God! Sister Bonnie successfully flew back to Taiwan by flight arranged by the Taiwanese government. In addition, two brothers and sisters also flew back to China by designated flight to treat personal illness. There are still two brothers and sisters waiting in line.

Although we have not resumed real Sunday Services, Peggy is still busy every day. Having prepared gifts to be sent out on the Father's Day and the Mother's Day and hand-made cloth masks, she also had to prepare prizes for reading/listening to the Bible activities. As the pianist, she also have to practise playing the piano.....



Interpreting the Bible and delivering sermons is the key task conducted by Barnabas during every Sunday Service. Barnabas face the challenges of explaining Exodus based on the Hebrew version but is also blessed to do so. We are almost grounded (except for making food purchases), Barnabas does not feel bored as it is most blessed to be a preacher who is enlightened by the Bible first then to teach others.

Most of the Sunday Services bearing special themes were recorded and broadcast online. The themes included the Good Friday, Easter, the Mother's Day and the Father's Day. Amongst all the work, the dedication of



hymns is the most difficult! On the Mother's Day Sunday Service (10/5), about 7 brothers and sisters joined the dedication, while on the Father's Day Sunday Service(21/6), it was the first time 7 brothers and sisters have sung together the same song "Father". The congregation were deeply touched.

We continue to improve the recording of the Sunday Services. Since the communion on 6/9, Barnabas has used videos to conduct the communion in a bid to assist the congregation to be more involved in the ceremony. Brother Kenny and brother Jia-wei have gradually mastered the technique of recording the hymns dedication while playing the music on YouTube. Knowing that she is often out of tune, Jane recorded her prayer while Barnabas is responsible for hymn dedication. Replaying the video clips of hymn dedication sometimes brought about good memories. Peggy could play the piano and record the music, and then sang along the music. However, it was tiring for Barnabas to do the editing afterwards. Since Aug, Sister Jenny joined the hymn dedication team under Barnabas' instructions, and her participation has added energy to the process of recording the Sunday Services.



Peggy's sharing

Since the lockdown in May, many people's lives have changed. After the male neighbour Casper had shot himself, we could not sleep for many nights as we worried that his wife Natarsha could not bear the pressure and committed suicide too. As a result, we prayed every day and accompanied her to provide help whenever necessary. Thanks be to God! After months of post-trauma counselling, the mother, the son (8-year-old) and the daughter (4-year-old) have gradually walked out of the misery. Natarsha had no



driving licence and had not worked. As such, the family struggled to make ends meet and had to uplift themselves again. Thanks be to God! She enrolled in a course for nail polishing. Since she had to attend the class all day, we offered help to take care of her children!

As such, we designed a two-week Bible class for the kids. I had also a breakthrough in speaking English. About 10 years ago, an English speaking boy participated in a Sunday Service for kids. Afterwards, he complained to his mother that he could not understand my spoken English. This was a negative experience for me. However, Christ's love goes beyond our



weaknesses and limitations. The siblings attentively listened to the Bible stories, enjoyed singing, completed the handcraft quietly, actively participated in prayers, helped to clean the place and wash dishes. Thanks be to God!

It has been 18 years since I taught VBS last time. At that time, I was only 43 and very energetic. I was also assisted by capable teachers. This preaching experience is truly God's grace!

"He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion." (Jeremiah 10:12)

Thanks giving and prayer requests

1. Thanks be to God! As at 6/9, the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus exceeded 630,000 and the recovery rate reached 90%. Pray that God may stop the pandemic.
2. Thanks be to God! The recording and broadcasting of Sunday Services of the PCCC has been improving.
3. Thanks be to God! Sister Bonnie successfully flew back to Taiwan by flight arranged by Taiwan in end of June. Please pray for Brother Shang and Sister Law who went back to China to treat their illness.
4. Thanks be to God! God has granted us opportunities to serve kids, teaching a Bible class in English for two weeks.
5. Please pray for the short-term mission trip of the Morrison Church in the end of this year. May God eliminate all obstacles.
6. South Africa is badly hit by the pandemic, surge in crimes, corruption, millions of unemployment, and severe sexual crimes, poverty, starvation and constant power shortages. Pray that God may grant wisdom to the government to rule the country.
7. Please pray for the renewal of our visas. May God help the government department to resume the renewal service as soon as possible.

Thank you for Praying!



Peggy & Barnabas

If you want to support us, please draw check payable to "Hong Kong ABWE Mission Limited" and send to P. O. Box No. 70834, Kowloon Central Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong or deposit cash in Bank of China (Hong Kong) account number 012-589-00017737 and send or fax (fax number (852) 27864786) the deposit slip to Hong Kong ABWE Mission (at the back of the check or deposit slip please write down to support missionaries: "Barnabas and Peggy Chung"). If you would like to receive prayer letters or make enquires, place call (852) 34223350 or email to Hong Kong ABWE Mission at mission@abwemhk.org. Thank you very much!