



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,

What a coincidence! This is the 99th prayer letter, while I have just finished the 99th sermon on Exodus. Although offerings is not a popular subject nowadays, it is still important. Hence, Barnabas would like to share a message on offering from Exodus 35:20-29, viewing offering from the perspective of 678.



20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.22 And they came, both men and women, as many as

were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered an offering of gold unto the Lord.23 And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them.24 Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the Lord's offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it.25 And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.26 And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.27 And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate;28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

With all your heart – there are 6 appearances of words related to "heart", reflecting that Israelis were willing to contribute gifts for building the Tabernacle and also skills of weaving. The 6 appearances of "heart" reflect that Israelis contribute the gifts with all their heart.

With all your will – there are 7 appearances of preposition related to "for the purpose of", reflecting that Israelis' purpose of contributions is for building the Tabernacle (God's family), and operation of God's family, clothes for God's servants. They also aimed at abiding by what God ordered through His servants and for the ministry of God's Kingdom. From the 7 appearances of "for the purpose of", we can see that Israelis contributed the gifts with all their will.

With all your strength – last but not least, the verbs related to coming appear 11 times. Amongst these, 8 times refer to verbs meaning to bring gifts to contribute, translated as "all brought to", "bring" and "offered". From the 8 appearances of "all brought to" reflect that Israelis contributed the gifts with all their strength.

Israelis suffered from a disaster because they worshipped the Golden Calf, causing the lives of 3,000 people in one day! The rest experienced God's forgiveness, the lives were preserved, and then they became willing to contribute to God. Due to the pandemic of coronavirus, more than 4.65 million people have died. Amongst the dead, there were our pastors, brothers and sisters, as well as families. The rest of us are blessed with God's protection, and our lives are preserved. We also have to contribute to God willingly.

What is noteworthy is that the original meaning of contribution of gifts in the Bible is raising the heave offering and waving the wave offering. The gifts they contributed to God were not used totally by God. Instead of burning all burnt offerings, the contributions were granted back by God, like heave offering and wave offering, to the subjects to build the Tabernacle, in a bid to let the subjects receive blessings from God.

Nowadays, we contribute to God money, resources and talents. In fact, they are not used by God. What we have offered is used for preaching the Gospel, Theological education, serving the community, establishing churches, etc. so as to bring more God's blessings to people.

May God help us to learn from the example of Israelis who contributed to God with all our heart, all our will and all our strength. However, "Not that I speak in respect of want (Philippians 4:11a) because we never lack support. We deeply hope that all of missionary work is abundantly provided by God.

The recent situation of South Africa

Although the third wave of pandemic in South Africa has not finished, it has shown signs of diminishing. The lockdown has been lowered from level 4 to level 3 in end of July and on 13/9 further lowered to level 2. Thanks be to God! The supply of vaccines is adequate in South Africa, and the subsequent challenge is to encourage more people to get vaccinated.

The crisis arising struggle between leaders of ruling party ANC and Zulu Kingdom has been alleviated. In mid-July the most severe riot since the apartheid happened. It was suppressed by

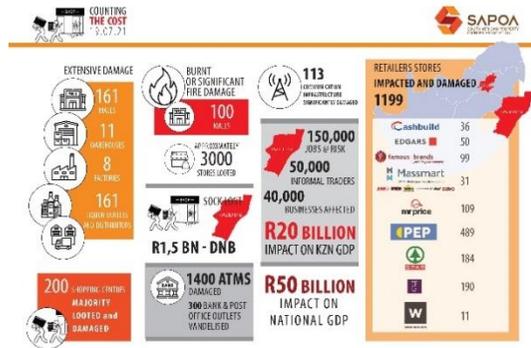
the military. The life has resumed normal. But the economic loss is beyond imagination.

The crisis of South Africa includes: corruption, water and power shortage, Covid-19 pandemic and Gender-based violence (the second pandemic of South Africa), economic crisis, and unemployment, etc.

According to the expert, in addition to 19 million who live on government subsidy, there are 1.5 million become unemployed, making the total number reaching subsidy 20.5 million.



we understand that keeping their jobs and serving people is what they can do best under disastrous circumstances.



Extension of visas

Thanks be to God! The renewal of Barnabas' visa has been delayed for a year since August last year. Barnabas' visa was finally renewed on 2 September, and it will be extended to August 2023! The visa has been renewed for 3 years, but the actual time is less than 2 years. Hence, the visa is not suitable for handling any 2-year contract. Peggy's visa renewal failed for the first time of application. We re-submitted on 20 September. May God help her renew the visa successfully.

Furlough (Sept-Nov 2022)

Due to the pandemic, plans become out of control. The furlough has been further postponed to 2022. We are grateful for churches' swift rearrangement. If God allows, Barnabas will deliver sermons in the following churches:

Date	Church	Date	Church
4/9	Engraving Grace Baptist Church	23/10	Evangel Baptist Church
11/9	Heng On Baptist Church	30/10	Heritage Baptist Church
18/9	Shun On Baptist Church(Chapel)	6/11	Luk Yeung Baptist Church
25/9	Abundant Grace Baptist Church	13/11	Evangel Baptist Church (Jordan)
2/10	Tsuen Shing Baptist Church	20/11	Cheung Hong Baptist Church
9/10	to be confirmed	27/11	Wo Lok Baptist Church
16/10	Tin Yue Baptist Church		

South Africa Short-term Mission Trip

Thanks be to God! The fight tickets of the 12-member short-term mission trip of the Chinese Morrison Church can be postponed to 9/4- 24/4 Easter next year! However, whether the trip can proceed depends on the pandemic, which is uncertain at the moment. Prayers are needed. There is an old Chinese saying that

the spirit would die down if repeated failures are encountered. May God grant us strength and wisdom to make preparations and adjustments!

The recent situation of PCCC

Thanks be to God! More and more PCCC congregation have been vaccinated, and we received the second shot in late July. We did not have any side effects. Peggy eczema relapsed but she has recovered. Recently, during the routine check before the visa renewal, Peggy's blood pressure was high for a few days. Thanks be to God! The blood pressure got back to normal range after a few days' exercise. Deacon Chairman Kenny is still in Taiwan where vaccines are lacking. He has to wait for the second shot of vaccine. Deaconess Jane is still in the Mainland, taking care of her children. Deacon Shum was diagnosed with Covid-19 after receiving the first shot of vaccine. After the swift recovery, he can serve as Chairman for the Sunday Service. The three deacons share the work of Chairman, facilitating the recording and broadcasting of the Sunday Services.

Due to the slow speed and unstable broad band, the Deacons has all along held meetings on WeChat. But since August, online meetings have been held on Zoom, in which people see one another online. On 19/9 Mid-Autumn Festival, the church organized the first online gathering trial.

To organize online Mid-Autumn Festival Gathering is a bit backward to brothers and sisters in Hong Kong. However, brothers and sisters of PCCC from South Africa (Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town), Ireland, China and Taiwan, etc. met online for the first time. All of us were very excited! It was a pity

that some brothers and sisters could not login successfully. We hope that more brothers and sisters can login in future and communicate with one another.

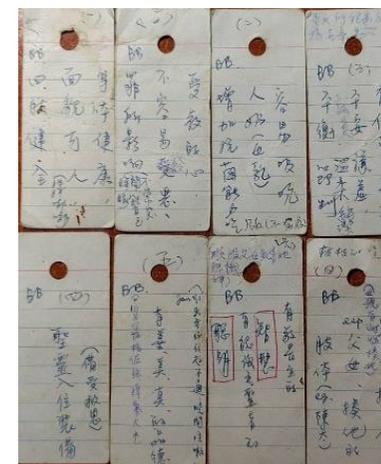


Peggy's sharing

"Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him." Psalms 127:3

We bought two flight tickets in April 2020 to Munich in Germany to visit our daughter and son-in-law. However, the trip was delayed repeatedly due to the pandemic, and we cancelled the tickets finally in August! Our daughter is expecting her child in mid-October, and it is her first pregnancy.

It is the first time I have become a grandmother. Apart from praying, I have many fancies and excitement. I feel guilty for not being able to go to Germany. Such an experience and feeling is also shared with other people due to the pandemic! I shared with my daughter prayer cards on how to prepare to be a mother. These cards are prayers for children for one week. I also



share them with you and I hope that my daughter knows how to pray for her children. During such evil times, people are hopeless without God.

In FBCSA Durban, a skilled wife of pastor can hand-make dolls. I specially ordered one for my grand-daughter. Through her work and also her prayers, blessings are sent to my grand-daughter.



What can a grand-mother do? It is the first time I have tried to make a blanket for a baby. I have made a total of three blankets for a baby in different sizes. Although they are not beautiful, God grant me great satisfaction after finishing them.

Thanks be to God! The "gift of love" was delivered to Munich after four days. I continue my prayers to God, hoping for the smooth delivery of the child and my daughter and son-in-law experience grace from God in the process. May God also nurture the baby, and may the baby grow up in God's love.



Thanksgiving and prayer requests

1. Thanks be to God! The internal struggle within the ruling party ANC and the crisis of succession of Zulu Kingdom has been alleviated, and no divide was formed within the country.
2. Thanks be to God! The third wave of pandemic has passed in South Africa, the lockdown has been lowered down to level two. There are also adequate vaccines. May God grant confidence to more people to be vaccinated.
3. Thanks be to God! Barnabas' visa has been extended to August 2023 and Peggy's visa renewal application was submitted on 20 September. May God help in the process of application.
4. Thanks be to God! The short-term mission trip of the Chinese Morrison Church has been further delayed to 9/4-24/4 next year. Please pray for the trip with uncertainties in the days ahead.
5. Thanks be to God! The first online gathering was held on Mid-Autumn Festival, with 18 brothers and sisters participating with their children! May God grant us more gatherings for us to get together.
6. Thanks be to God! Barnabas and Peggy would have holidays on weekdays during September to November. We tour different places and take rest, hoping to regain our strength!
Thank you for your prayer!



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, **Faster Payment System- Bank of China(Hong Kong): 161520218 or Hang Seng Bank : 369-439-153-883** 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!