



TAIWAN UPDATE

April – June 2020

Dear Pastor Wee and Shalom Baptist Church,

Tidings of joy and hope from Him who holds tomorrow! God is ever faithful and we can still trust Him even when we in our human limitations face a bleak future. I have sat down in virtual chats with people I know telling me that they feel desperate in this present “new normal” way of life. A father of four children just lost his job due to the closure of the company he is working for. Hans, a freshman student in our neighborhood expressed his concern that he would skip school this year until his father is back to work. Suicide rate has sparked up due to depression and we could picture the gnawing emptiness that besets the souls of those who only see blackness in the midst of this pandemic. As mortals with compassion for our fellows who are in deep despair, we could only offer minimal of what we have materially or financially as many of us too are in similar situations.

Where Is God In This Crisis?

Perhaps even Christians who are severely affected by the onslaught of the pandemic are asking this question. They think that God has forsaken them and they start to retreat from their faith. I have observed that since ECQ was lifted, church members who hunger for church fellowship were excited to join corporate worship services again after two months of taking part in live streaming in the premises of their home. However, some have drifted away discouraged or downcast because of not coping well enough with the crisis. In times such as this, it is normal and natural to ask where God is. The Psalmist cried out, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.”
Psalm 22:1-2

Gestures of Love and Concern

When our brethren in Lijiang knew that COVID-19 has spread to the Philippines, many of them empathized and two of them, Eva and Alex Tao, offered to send us bundles of facial masks when these ran out of stock in March and April. But due to the lockdown in the country, international courier services were suspended temporarily and the parcels they sent were returned to them. However, we really appreciate their gesture of love and concern. Yong Li, our brother from Shanghai who came to know the Lord a year ago here in Iloilo City, also showed his concern about our own safety. He did send monetary gift for the brethren in our home church who are in need. This is so heart-warming and we know that even in the midst of crisis, we still can see the loving hand of God manifested in the lives of believers who love Him.

Waiting In The Midst of Uncertainty

It is a grueling time for us to wait when days, weeks, and months pass by and we cannot move on. We cannot travel yet to Manila to pursue what we have started months ago prior to the pandemic. TECO (Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office) had been closed throughout the ECQ, reopened in June and closed again because of the new wave of people positive of COVID-19 in Binondo and other parts of Metro Manila. Traveling to the capital city is yet too risky from our province for fear of being stranded and quarantined. Like I said in our last prayer letter, we have to go over our medical tests because the validity of the certificate would have lapsed after three months. We sought advice and we are always told to wait until it is no longer risky to being exposed to the virus. Anyway, while waiting, time was devoted to teaching a fellow missionary to Taiwan the basic Mandarin. We are praying that when the GCQ eases down, we could finally fly to Manila and start all over again. If God wills, the door of opportunity will be opened for us to serve in Taiwan.

Almost Two Years Since the Exit

July 29, 2018 was the date of our final exit from China. We were sad, heartbroken, overly-stressed but thankful that the travel back home was hassle-free. Friends and loved ones say that the timing of our exit was part of God’s plan. After a year, the gale of persecution on house churches throughout the country intensified, only to be followed by the Novel Corona Virus outbreak. God has been so good to us! We are grateful that even in these difficult times, you continue to uphold us with your prayer and financial support. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts!

*For the love of souls,
Rod and Liza Keng*

Mailing Address:

Bible Baptist Church
Brgy. Cocherero, Lopez Jaena St.,
Molo, Iloilo City 5000, Philippines
BBC Tel: (033) 337-5388 Cell: +63927-982-3670 (new)
E-mail: rckeng@hotmail.com, rckeng@gmail.com

Support Address:

Asian Baptist Clearinghouse
702 Manila Luxury Condominium, Pearl Drive cor. Gold Loop, Pasig City 1605, Philippines
Tel: +63 2687-1372 Fax: +63 2687-1680 Cell: +63919-333-5777 E-mail: financial@abclear.org