

The official International Church of Shanghai publication

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11th

ANNIVERSARY



From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the first edition of The Vessel for 2020! ICS celebrated the 11th anniversary on November 10th last year. In this issue, we featured the Christmas Banquet from December 2019, G1 Mission Trip to Chiang Mai Thailand and what ICS has been doing in the first quarter of this year.

2020 started with an unprecedented twist with the COVID-19 outbreak which resulted in the whole China-wide lockdown since the Chinese New Year break in late January. The epidemic has impacted the lifestyles of every individuals, the ways people work, businesses being put on halt and overtime revealed the ugly and the good nature of ourselves.

We featured the Good Works that ICS has been involved to bless the community since the COVID-19 epidemic crisis started. With the suspension of Sunday church services, we showed "behind the scenes" of how ICS prepared video recordings of sermons and Online Sunday Services. Testimony sharing of our church members and Cell Groups on how they got involved during the epidemic have also been included.

ICS, being one of the TEC Ambassador Center partners, supported many TEC events in 2019 where we showed a year's highlights in review. In addition, the TEC chairman shared the story of how TEC started and the heart behind "Building a Home Away from Home".

Brian Lin

Why The Vessel?

Conceived from the verses of 2 Kings 4:1-7: "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbours - empty vessels; do not gather just a few...", the newsletters are to be the vessels of His supernatural blessings and providence. With faith in the Lord, the blessings will not stop, but will instead overflow, so that we can, as vessels, catch and share with others the goodness that God has bestowed upon His people.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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International Church of Shanghai | Sunday services: 9am & 11am
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ICS Singapore | Sunday pre-service prayer: 9:45am / English service: 10am
Hotel Fort Canning (Lavender Ballroom) | 11 Canning Walk, Singapore 178881 P: +65.9180.3280 | info@inchristsg.org | www.inchristsg.org

Pastor Says...

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

All of us are affected by the recent outbreak of COVID-19 that has turned into a pandemic situation around the world. The world is also experiencing a global economic crisis as many countries are restricting movement thus affecting the businesses. What we are experiencing is unprecedented.

Praise be to God that we are able to experience His love, joy and peace in the midst of this "perfect storm".

ICS' vision is "We are a family blessed to bless the community and the nations". The blessing refers to the salvation that we have received through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We have peace with God. We should share the blessedness of the gospel with our friends especially during times like these. We are also expressing the blessedness by sharing with others through act of kindness and good works recorded in this edition of vessel.

We are glad that you are part of the ICS family. Therefore, we look forward to the day when the authorities make announcement that we can resume church services at Marriott Hotel. Meanwhile, may the grace of God sustain you and His wisdom guide you in all that you are doing at work and home.

Daniel Ho
Senior Pastor - ICS
The People's Republic of China

Christmas Banquet

BY GRACE CHAN



This year the Christmas banquet was held in the Hongqiao Marriot Grand Ballroom, where ICS normally holds the Sunday services.

While volunteers were making preparations, we paused to commit the evening into prayers. Right then, the presence of the Lord was undeniably strong.

As guests arrived to give glory to the King of kings, they were welcomed by the angelic voices of our very own ICS choir. As I ushered guests to their seats, I could not help but feel grateful for all who had worked so hard behind the scenes to make the venue look and feel so spectacular.

First up in the program was the beautiful voices of the J-Voice choir, a choir of Japanese ladies who are expat trailing spouses and share common interest for singing. Their songs brought the whole ballroom to a new level of excitement.

A visit to the children's Christmas party venue showed lovely, Instagram worthy decorations and props, much to the kids and parents delight. All kids were encouraged to dress up for the celebration. Some came with colored wigs, some with interesting looking hats and others with cool headbands.

Pastor Lynn's Harvest Kids team led the kids on an exciting and educational journey to explore the true meaning of Christmas. The kids sang carols, played games and did craft works. Most importantly, the kids watched a play which taught them that the greatest gift for Christmas was Jesus.



Our guest speaker, Richard Ho, shared his testimony on how God transformed his relationship with his family. There was a time when his marriage hit a rough patch and thoughts of divorce came up. It was through prayer that Richard finally understood that in order to change his marriage, he had to first change himself. I had three take away points that can be applied not only to our relationship with our spouses, but also to with others and God.

1. Humility is about laying down our pride and choosing to live according to God's will rather than our own. Jesus' life is the perfect example. Jesus never thought of seeking honor or glory for himself. Neither did He use His power to vindicate Himself when He was wrongly accused and abandoned by the world.

2. We should be understanding of the other person's weaknesses and be able to forgive. As followers of Christ, forgiveness is not an option but a requirement. Jesus bore our sins and was crucified so that we are able to stand before our Father in heaven with His Forgiveness.

3. We must be filled with gratitude. We owe our lives to God. There is a reason for every blessing and lesson learnt in our lives. Give thanks and show appreciation all the time.

As the celebration ended, Pastor Daniel led in closing prayers and altar call. Praise the Lord that 28 people responded and accepted Christ that night!

2019 Christmas banquet was a huge success thanks to the dedicated and hardworking staffs and volunteers of ICS and Marriott Hongqiao. I am looking forward to the next Christmas banquet celebration.

by Akari Wei (translated by Brian Lin)

ICS GOOD WORKS DURING COVID-19 EPIDEMIC CRISIS



感谢信

上海国际礼拜堂 (ICS) :

尊敬的 ICS 的牧长、各位同工及弟兄姊妹, 主内平安!

2019 年末, 新冠疫情横行, 举国上下都投入到这场抗击疫情的战役之中。防疫物资的缺乏成为了困扰各地的难题, 特别是位于抗疫一线的湖北, 困难和缺乏尤为的严重。

仙桃教会几乎陷入已无任何防疫物资可用的光景。在这样的情况下, 我们收到了来自贵会的爱心奉献, 明细如下: 3-ply 口罩 10000 个、普力 600 快速片 (环境消毒专用) 一箱、好适安消毒喷雾五箱 (48 瓶装)。这真是解了我们燃眉之急。

蒙贵会慷慨相助, 我们是何等有福, 真是感激不尽! 我们更相信神必要将那“施比受更为有福”的恩典大大临到贵教会。我们唯有在主里献上代祷, 愿神纪念贵会牧长和肢体的劳苦。

在耶稣基督里祝福你们平安。

仙桃市基督教
2020年3月



In January 23rd 2020, due to the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19), cities in Hubei Province were locked down one after another, while other cities in China also began different stages of quarantine and lockdown. The demand for protective gears increased instantly.

Since the epidemic, ICS has taken the initiative in donating RMB 100,000 through the "Shanghai Christian Council" for the prevention and treatment of pneumonia caused by the virus. In addition, as of end of March, ICS has donated over 23,000 surgical masks and other protective gears with a total value of RMB 300,000 to many hospitals and communities with needs.

After receiving the needs of the local churches and hospitals at all levels in the areas hit by the epidemic, ICS church members went around to source various types of protective equipment and provided urgently needed items to the local hospitals and churches, including N95 masks, surgical masks, disinfectants, level 3 protective coveralls etc.

Not only were the urgently needed protective goggles provided for the Xiaogang First People's



Hospital, but 2200 N95 masks (which have been extremely short of stock recently) were provided straightaway to Jinshan Hospital and Chung Shan Hospital of Fudan University, and Wuchang Funeral Parlor. Other medical supplies like disinfectant sprays and 10,000 surgical masks have also been sent to areas in Hubei, to support the government recognized churches and community centers in Xiantao City.

We also donated protective coveralls to the medical workers in Shanghai Sino United Health Clinic, and Level 3 protective coveralls to funeral workers in Wuchang Funeral Parlor to help protect and safeguard the frontline medical professionals from infection.

In addition, in the spirit of loving our neighbors, we also provided surgical masks to local communities in Shanghai, including the Religious Affairs Bureau, Shanghai Xi Shi Elderly Service Center, Shanghai Huge Grace Disabled Children Welfare Center and more.

As the Shanghai Municipal Government's epidemic prevention measures are well maintained, many organizations have started resuming work in the recent weeks since the start of March. To help cater to the needs of church members and others returning to work, we have also been providing free masks for adults and children.



More recently, we found out that the medical workers of Wuhan Lei Shen Shan (Thunder Mountain) Hospital and The Central Hospital of Wuhan urgently needed more protective coveralls. Coordinating with the volunteer team, they managed to source the supplies within half a day and immediately arranged for delivery to Wuhan. With the cooperation of church members, it showed us that there would definitely be no lack of God's provision.

Our church continues to maintain close contact with the hospitals and have been kept up-to-date on the current status and the needs of each medical center, so that we can more effectively provide the relevant assistance. We hereby ask our members to continue to pray together with us for the epidemic infections to be under control, and to seek God's healing and restoration of this land.

ICS ONLINE SERVICE DURING COVID-19 EPIDEMIC CRISIS

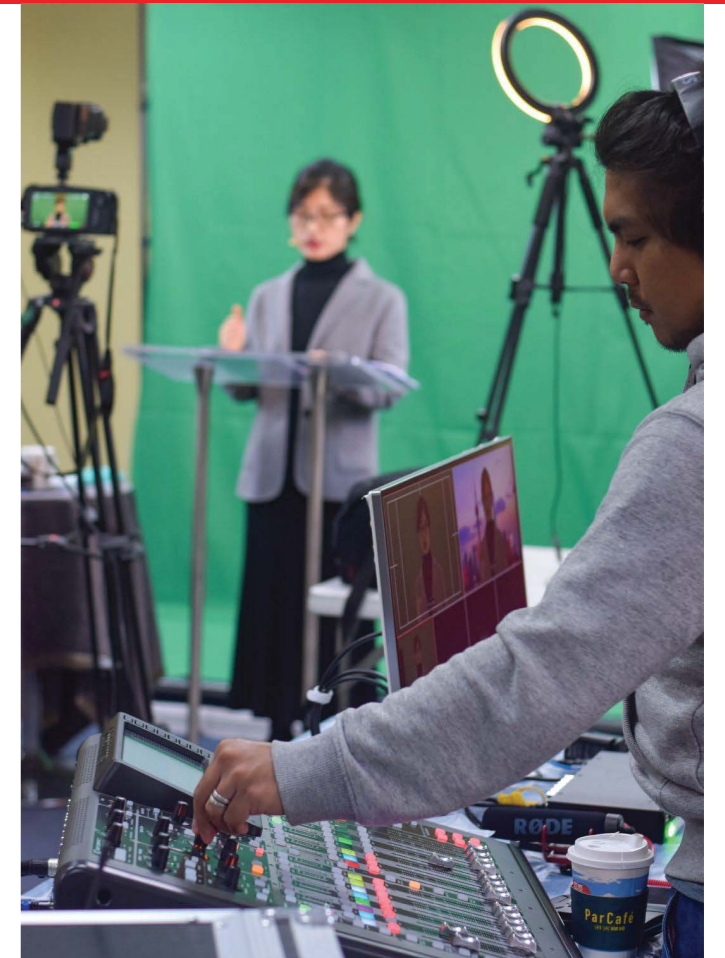


(BEHIND THE SCENES)

After 4 weeks, Pastor Daniel was back in Shanghai. Undergoing the mandatory 14-day quarantine, Pastor Daniel and Pastor Kim had to record Sunday's sermons at their own homes by themselves. They would then need to upload the videos to a shared drive online, so that the ICS staff could edit and upload those sermon recordings in time for Sunday.

As the situation in Shanghai improved and the ICS staffs could go back to the church office, we set up a temporary studio to record the Sunday sermons. We purchased a green background, and set up the studio with some LED lights, camera and software that we already had. We spent a fair amount of time researching online for information on how to set this all up and fine tune them to suit our needs. There is still room for improvements, but as of now, we are working with what we currently have to meet the main objectives of providing the most feasible venue for our church members to hear God's Word every Sunday during this period.

ICS has taken further steps to launch online Sunday service, which not only has sermons recorded by the pastors in time to be made available online, but also includes praise and worship sessions and other notices and messages. We hope to keep feeding our church members with timely messages and the Word of God during this period of uncertainty. We believe that in such uncertain times, our members will be even more strengthened in the Word of God and to pray in the Spirit, have faith in Jesus, and share the good news.



When the COVID-19 epidemic struck, ICS church services were on indefinite suspension since late January (Chinese New Year), in accordance to the government epidemic prevention policy. During this period, our church has been encouraging cell groups to continue to stay connected through online communication platforms, and to care and look out for one another with love and encouragement. We had to adapt quickly and work with whatever resources that were available to bring God's Word across to church members during this epidemic.



How I wish it could be as simple and easy as that.

How many lights do we need and how bright should they be? What kind of video camera and what type of lenses should we use? What resources or software do we have in place that we can utilize? How about the costs and production? These are just a glimpse into some of the choices and decisions that had to be made.

Early February, Pastor Daniel was scheduled to preach at In Christ Singapore. He instructed us to use the recorded sermons from In Christ Singapore's Sunday services for ICS in China. ICS staff had to work together with In Christ Singapore's staff and volunteers to produce an additional Chinese service recording and share resources to be able to deliver His Word to both churches.



Kids Church has also designed a series of online Kids program including motion worship, cartoon presentation, animation teaching, prayer application and fun activities. We want to encourage our children to study the Word of God effectively even while staying in at home during this period.

TEC 2019

Review



TEC Shine

TEC Talk

TEC Learn

- YALE, HARVARD CONCERTS
- EASTER SPRING BAZAAR
- FAMILY FUN DAY
- DEBATE
- CHRISTMAS GALA

- TEC-3M CHARITY INITIATIVE
- EXPLORING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES 2, FUTURE EDUCATION
- PERSONAL TAX, JUDICIAL, BIZ REG, WORK PERMIT, CUSTOMS
- DAODAO EXHIBITION
- EQ, VIA
- THANKSGIVING

- CPR
- INTL EN SPRING AND FALL
- TCM
- KR CLUSTER (EN MOONCAKE, SKINCARE)
- DUMPLING MAKING, GT BAKING



On behalf of TEC, I would like to thank ICS for their wonderful support as a TEC Ambassador Center partner. What a journey!

by Jia Jun Chong



I remember my first project with TEC where the team worked together in Changning's first ever international tri-partnership between 3M, the Shanghai Changning Government and TEC. It was a charity initiative that donated 3M air purifiers and filter support to over 50 organizations and households in Shanghai.

This tri-partnership charity partnership between the government, an international company like 3M and TEC as a social neutral platform also caught the eye of the media. This event was widely covered in the media and was featured in the news. This created more awareness of similar ageing households in China and allowed people to start noticing that there are needs even within Shanghai. It could very well be your next door neighbor!



FITNESS FESTIVAL:
A three-weekend long fitness festival held in conjunction with the Changing Sports Bureau - Swim Fiesta, Basketball Tournament and The Amazing Sports Carnival



YALE, HARVARD CONCERTS:
The Yale Whiffenpoofs and Harvard Krokodilos a Capella concerts held to support the Shanghai School For The Blind and Indigo Charity for autistic people respectively.



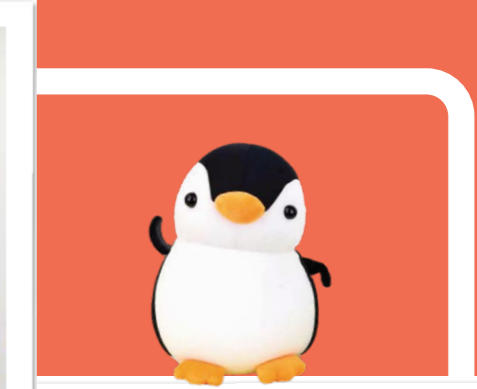
Through this partnership charity initiative, other corporate partners also joined us at the TEC Ambassador Center for other meaningful events which contribute back to the society. We also had the privilege to host the Yale Whiffenpoofs in a concert which supported the Shanghai School of the Blind, the Harvard Krokodiloes in a concert which supported the Indigo Charity for special needs and more recently, our TEC Christmas Gala Dinner which supported the Lifeline Charity. The TEC Ambassador Centers have grown to include over 60 partner involving Chinese government agencies, hospitals, schools, banks, MNCs, business chambers and even embassies of various countries. What a miracle!



EASTER SPRING BAZAAR:
Over 3500 eggs were hidden (and found) at this eggs-traordinary and eggs-citing bazaar!



FAMILY FUN DAY:
An annual event bringing families together for a fun-filled picnic at Shanghai Livingston American School



TEC-3M CHARITY INITIATIVE:
An event that garnered 15 notable media channels' coverage and the recognition and support of the Changning District government.



CHRISTMAS GALA: Close to 400 attended TEC's "A Ray of Light" Christmas Gala Dinner in December 2019. A Photography Silent Auction was also held to support Lifeline



EXPLORING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES II, FUTURE OF EDUCATION:
Principals' Panel discussion at the Exploring Educational Opportunities II event. A talk held in collaboration with EDU_Matters which kick-started a community for educators in Shanghai

As a foreigner in Shanghai, I believe that it is important to be engaged locally while having a global mindset. What better way to anchor oneself in the local community than by giving back through participation in meaningful activities? At TEC, we want to help fellow expatriates like you **"Build a Home Away from Home"**, so that during the treasured time we have here in Shanghai, we can make a difference by forging lasting relationships and develop close knit communities. So come and be a TEC follower today!

Throughout this year, the TEC team will be planning new programs as we want to garner different multi-cultural experiences, skills, and interests. We want to create small cluster groups to help fellow foreigners find their footing here in Shanghai, and to give back to the communities while we are here. There will also be different programs which will support the living, working and family needs in Shanghai. These will include day trips to know Shanghai better, work permit application support, parenting courses etc. Stay tuned for an exciting year ahead!



PERSONAL TAX, JUDICIAL, BIZ REG, WORK PERMIT, CUSTOMS:
With the support of Hongqiao Foreigner Talent Service Center, The Government Salon Series (GSS) introduced a series talks that brought in representatives from the Tax Bureau, Judicial, Business Registration and Customs offices

Though it is with a heavy heart to announce that my husband TR and I will be repatriating back to Singapore, the spirit of TEC will live on in whichever city we find ourselves in next. My hope is that we will be able to make a difference wherever we are, whether it is back home or in whichever "Home Away From Home" that God leads us to. Thank you all again for believing in TEC, for the privilege to be amongst you and for this precious time we had in Shanghai!



INTL EN SPRING AND FALL:
International English classes where parents and kids get to learn in fun and interactive ways



KR CLUSTER (EN, MOONCAKE, SKINCARE):
NON-STOP EVENTS HELD ACROSS THE YEAR FOR THE KOREAN CLUSTER FROM SKINCARE LESSONS TO CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH AND MOONCAKE BAKING CLASSES!



DUMPLING MAKING, GT BAKING:
TEC partnered with Dumpling Social to hold a series of cooking classes and Golden Tulip Shanghai Rainbow to bake delicious Christmas pastries in Winter



DUMPLING MAKING, GT BAKING:
TEC partnered with Dumpling Social to hold a series of cooking classes and Golden Tulip Shanghai Rainbow to bake delicious Christmas pastries in Winter



BUILD A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

BY LINDA PAINAN (CHAIRMAN)



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

- This story is about angels and platforms.

It was 2005 and I was in a shop along Hongmei Road, when I heard the frustrated expressions of a woman trying to explain what she wanted from the shop assistant. I turned to the African American woman and offered to translate for her needs. She breathed a sigh of relief and after that we started chatting and exchanged numbers. We quickly became close friends.

It was the manufacturing boom in China, and her husband got posted here by a high profile MNC to head their operations. Velekeyta had quit her job in the US to come to Shanghai with her 4-year-old boy so their family could be together. They had the whole expat dream package: the villa, the car with the driver, and the 'Ayi'.

I was surprised to learn later when she told me that the day we first met was supposed to be her last! She was tired of Shanghai and was flying back to the US with her son.

During the 6 months she was here, she felt miserable. She had no friends, did not understand Chinese, and her husband was constantly travelling. In short, Velekeyta had no support system at home.

However, Velekeyta actually went on to stay in Shanghai for another 6 years, before moving back to the US with her family. During that time, she actively helped newcomers adjust to life in Shanghai. She always said, "I have been touched by an angel and I want to be that angel to someone else". Sometimes all you need is a friend to make a place feel like home, and this is what TEC is about.



Swim Fiesta partners and volunteers

"I want to say TEC, thank you so much for inviting us to participate in the Swim Fiesta. We had a fantastic time, a great opportunity to work collaboratively with our local community organisation.. bringing local schools.. we love it."
-Mr. Don Collins, Principal of YCIS (Puxi)



Volunteers for TEC Family Fun Day

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Today, with social platforms like WeChat, we have access to many activities and events to network and connect.

We are grateful to the Shanghai Municipal government in Changning district, in supporting and aiding in the realization of **TEC - The Expatriate Center**.

TEC is a platform to help expats and Chinese returnees **Build A Home Away From Home**, here in Shanghai.

Home is where the heart is, so here at TEC, we aim to make it meaningful and heartfelt. In this way, a real community can be built and support can be given to the people around us.



Partners, participants and volunteers in TEC TALK and LEARN events



Fitness Festival partners, participants and volunteers

On behalf of TEC, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of our partners, volunteers and befrienders. At the Christmas Gala last December, we came together to celebrate TEC's milestones for 2019 and to support Lifeline, the non-profit charity organization that provides people like Velekeyta a support system.

You are the angels that Velekeyta talked about. I want to thank all you for using TEC as your platform to love the community.

"Our partnership with The Expatriate Center during the 3M Charity Initiative, Easter Spring Bazaar and the Family Fun Day. We are grateful in working with TEC with the community in providing health services to expats and Chinese returnees and addressing their basic needs here in Shanghai."
-Dr. Sanjeev Choubey, Medical Director, St. Michael Hospital

As Brian Solis, the principal from Altimeter Group said, "Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter!" With that, let us join hands together to create a fabulous TEC community in 2020 and be that angel to help one another Build A Home Away From Home! Thank you!



G1 MISSION 'TRIP' @ CHIANG MAI THAILAND

BY STEPHANIE LOPEZ MATIAS

During the Serve-Fest service last March, the Holy Spirit led me to the Missions table to inquire about the Africa trip. With the guidance of Akari, she encouraged me to consider joining the G1 trip first to Thailand.

After praying and asking God to lead me on my calling, I signed-up for the G1 trip!

2 Cor 9:8b I will meet all your needs, so you can overflow with good works



We landed in Chiang Mai, Thailand on July 8th, with a group of 5 adults and 2 kids. The first evening we experienced local Thai cuisine and a cultural performance. The next day, we learned about the city and its history. As we visited the Gateway (a foundation that helps under-privileged young women to study and have a better future), we learnt more about the Mekong vision. As the only country that has never been colonized in Southeast Asia, Thailand has a diverse population.

The third day we visited tribal minorities in Baan Tong Luang. Learning Thai was on our agenda for the day, and I just loved it! I particularly enjoyed when we had to go to the market to buy food for dinner on our own. We were divided into 3 groups, armed with very limited Thai and a short time window, praying we would have food for dinner. Despite the setbacks, we managed to have a lovely meal and fellowship with the Gateway girls.

The fourth day was a nature excursion. We reached the Doi Inthanon, the highest peak in Thailand and part of the Himalayan range. The Wachirathan waterfall is indeed a wonderful creation of God.



John 15:7 If all of you abide in me, and my words abide in you, all of you shall ask what all of you will, and it shall be done unto you

Psalm 20:5b May the Lord answer all your prayers

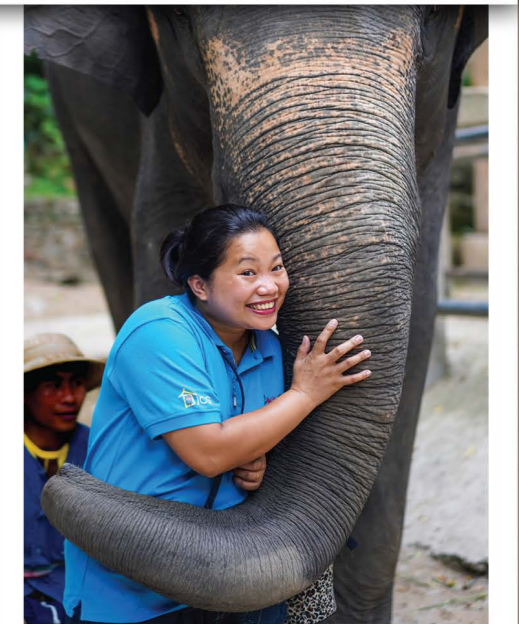
Our sixth day was a trip to the Maesa Elephant Camp, riding and watching elephants painting brightened the day. This was also our most awaited day as we went and served the Agape Home and Orphanage for HIV kids. Seeing those kids with sweet smiles and joy in their eyes as we played, sang, served food and gave gifts was a remarkable heartfelt experience!

We attended the Sunday service at Abundant Grace Church and then visited Sankampaeng Hot Spring to enjoy the hot spring and relaxing foot massage in the afternoon. When the evening came, we visited Walking Street in the Old City and went shopping.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter if you're new or have been attending ICS for a long time, you are more than welcome to join the ICS Mission Trips. As Christ said before He ascended to Heaven: **Go and make disciples to the end of the world.** Be an inspiration to others by serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1a I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifice

The following day was a solemn and prayerful mission journey. We conducted an evening prayer walk. Praying for people while walking the streets was a new experience for us all. It was a defining moment of trusting the Lord through the Power of Prayer.



FILL IN THE GAP OF NEEDS

by Carol Zhu

(translated by Brian Lin)

When Wuhan announced the citywide lockdown on January 23rd, I was visiting relatives and friends in Fuzhou. I felt the situation was getting more serious, so I canceled the trip and returned to Beijing instead. The next day, I learned through my friend Christina that many hospitals in Wuhan were short on medical protective gear. Christina was born in Hubei and was a medical school graduate from Wuhan Tongji University. Through her alumni network in Wuhan, she consolidated the needs of the local hospitals.

I contacted Pastor Daniel, who was still in Singapore at the time, to notify him of the situation. He immediately prayed for Wuhan and China, arranged a special fund from the church to support the good works, and organized a support team to coordinate delivery of all epidemic-related protective gear and items.

Luke 10:33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

Towards the end of January, I learned that the hospitals in Wuhan were in urgent need of N95 medical masks, which have been extremely short of stock. Thank God for sister Susan Chang, who utilized her professional network to source 10,000 surgical masks for the churches and communities that ICS supported in Xiantao.

On February 11th, hospitals in Shanghai informed our support team that their search for suppliers of medical supplies from overseas had been unsuccessful for some time. However, there was no delay in God's provision as He opened another door for Akari to source N95 medical masks from Russia, and have them delivered to Shanghai straightaway. After the package arrived on March 4th, Akari personally delivered 500 masks each to Jingshan Hospital and Chung Shan Hospital of Fudan University. I felt God was pleased with what we were doing and His hand had been guiding and blessing these good works.

Heb 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

With aid flowing into Wuhan from many places, the situation there has improved significantly. However, Christina told me that areas outside Wuhan still faced shortage of various supplies. Working together with the support team, we sourced and delivered 500 protective goggles to Xiaogan First People's Hospital on March 3rd, and 1,000 N95 masks and 500 protective coveralls to Wuchang Funeral Parlor on March 6th. Praise the Lord, in all things God works for the good of those who love him.

On March 10th, the ICS team urgently sent 100 level 3 protective coveralls to Wuhan Lei Shen Shan (Thunder Mountain) Hospital and Central Hospital of Wuhan in response to their needs. These two hospitals have been at the epicenter, battling it tirelessly since the onset of the epidemic. Central Hospital of Wuhan is the

站在破口中 - 当ICS 教会参与捐献抗疫的时候

hospital that deceased whistleblower, Dr. Li Wenliang, once worked. In the early days of the outbreak, over 200 medical workers there were infected due to the lack of protective gear. This resulted in a very negative image of the hospital which lost many donors. The hospitals expressed their sincere gratitude when they received the protective coveralls and timely support from ICS.

To help bring our blessings to the recipients, a sticker with "PEACE BE WITH YOU" was affixed to the outer box of the donated items from ICS. Thank God, He heard our prayers as the COVID-19 epidemic has been relatively well contained in China. We have all felt the light from God and His peace in our hearts. However, the pandemic is still terrorizing the rest of the world. We must continue to pray persistently for God's hand to restore this land.



2020年1月23日 武汉宣布封城了, 我正在福州探亲访友。新型冠状病毒这个新名词我还记不清, 但见到事态很紧张, 我就决定马上终止了行程带爸爸直接飞回北京。1月24日我的好朋友Christina就联系我我说武汉的许多医院医用防护物资告紧, 政府行动没到位时, 民间或个人应该出手帮助。

Christina是湖北人, 也是武汉同济医学院毕业的, 所有她的许多同学在武汉医院工作, 她非常了解当地医院的需求。

我马上联系了还在新加坡的Daniel牧师, 告诉了这样的急需。牧师马上做出反应, 为武汉和中国祷告, 也安排教会的预算并且启动支援团队因应所有防疫相关物品支持计划。

路加福音10: 33 惟有一个撒玛利亚人行路来到那里, 看见他就动了慈心。

1月底的时候, 武汉医院急需的N95 医用口罩全球采购都很难得到。身为公司采购的Susan Chang姐妹也加入进来, 先帮助Akari一起采购了一万个医用外科口罩给ICS 支持过的仙桃教会。后来2月11日上海的医院面临着应付复工后返城人员的压力, 急需N95口罩。土耳其的, 韩国的, 世界各地的N95口罩可能都被中国人买断了。好不容易 Akari帮助找到了从俄罗斯进口的N95 级的口罩, 并且3月4日她亲自打车送到了上海复旦大学附属华山医院和上海复旦大学附属金山医院各500个。在感动之余我深深明白神喜悦我们所做的一切并且祂的手在当中引导并祝福这工。

希伯来书13: 16 只是不可忘记行善和捐输的事, 因为这样的祭是神所喜悦的。

随着疫情的发展, 各地驰援武汉的医护人员使当地的医疗救治发生了很大的改变, 医疗物资也有了很明显的改善。但是Christina 告诉我武汉外的地区还是物资匮乏, 3月3日, 孝感医院收到了500个防护面罩, 3月6日, 武昌殡仪馆收到了1000个N95级口罩和500件医用防护服。感谢主, 万事互相效力, 让爱神的人得益处。

3月10号, ICS又寄出了两箱各100件三级医用防护服给武汉雷神山医院和武汉中心医院, 这两个医院有许多重症患者, 可能是武汉抗疫保卫战的最后战场。武汉中心医院是李文亮医生所在的医院, 这里的医生由于早期的防护不足, 有200多名医务人员被感染! 由于李文亮医生的去世, 一些网友发出不再向中心医院捐物资的声音, 这个医院的物资缺口是特别大的。当他们接收了ICS的防护服时, 对ICS的及时帮助非常感谢!

在ICS寄出的捐赠物资的运输箱子上都贴着 "PEACE BE WITH YOU" 为了能带出我们对受赠方的祝福, 愿他们平安。感谢主, 他听我们的祷告, 这个可怕的新冠病毒的瘟疫肆虐在中国已经得到遏制, 我们都感到从神而来的光照亮了我们的内心, 心里也感到平安。但是病毒在全球蔓延使人非常担忧, 我们需继续恒切祷告求上帝的出手修复这地。

TESTIMONY

同心合意的祷告大能

by Norman Hwang



在2020年一月中，恩典小组在听到何牧师2019年底分享关于培养属灵习惯的信息，也在圣灵的感动下，小组决定在2020年专注建立培养祷告的习惯。每一位组员在各自订下祷告习惯的目标，包括禁食祷告、每天早上起身祷告、列下祷告清单以及神的回应祷告日记...等等。我们也将这些交在神的手中祈求圣灵带领并坚定持续我们立定的祷告心志。

开始的第一周，碰到新冠肺炎疫情爆发，我们也决定于1月30日开始线上聚集祷告连续7天为武汉和其他各地求平安。每天晚上9点至10点的时间组员们会透过线上聚集为疫情也会整个恢复代祷。虽然各自身处世界不同角落：德国、香港、国内各城市，在祷告中我们不仅为自己也为国家来向天父祈求，愿祂翻转恢复医治这地，也愿福音能被传扬，更为那些在前线抗疫的医护人员祷告，求神保护照顾他们。在过程当中我们也感谢天父，让自己不仅是开始祷告，并且也能操练在大家聚集的时候开声祷告。在祷告当中有组员们被感动得到激励，深深感到主的同在，也获得灵里的启示。因此，7天之后我们决定继续这样的聚集祷告，每周6天，直到2月9日，更邀请另一个小组雅歌小组加入我们的线上代祷群。

2月12日，我们被感动去鼓励不仅仅只是祷告，也要去分享基督的爱，安慰受伤的心，因此透过一些机会，组员们试着分享并鼓励安慰在隔离或是患病的友人们，晚上代祷聚集的时候再分享彼此的经验，圣灵的感动，也借此彼此鼓励，过程当中，有人经

历家人的离世，亲人的分开痛楚，透过祷告与圣灵同工，我们也学习如何安慰和陪伴，我们知道不是倚靠势力不是依靠才能，乃是靠着神的灵方能成事。在圣灵的继续感动下，继续发光分享爱和温暖。曾经，在分享的过程中被拒绝也会有退缩的时候，但神必亲自成就他所要成就的工，我们当中接触的亲友们目前有3位决志，并愿意更多地认识主。哈利路亚！赞美归于我们的神！这样的经历让我们对传福音更加感到迫切，特别是为自己还没信主的亲人更多付上祷告的代价。

神的带领永不止息，不知不觉我们已经连续祷告了4周。过程当中也体会到同心合意祷告的过程当中需要适应并越过的不同挑战，因为每一位的祷告习惯和风格不尽相同，属灵当中也会彼此影响各自的祷告情绪，也会面临出席率高高低低的不同时期。随着中国的疫情的改善，我们的祷告重心从武汉和中国移转到不同面向，另一个挑战也随之而来。随着复工，聚集祷告的时间也需要配合在第5调整成周二、四晚上九点。但我们相信同心之处就是那大能聚集之处，圣灵会继续引导我们如何祷告，吸引我们在每一次的聚集当中让我们明白神的心意，并且对我们众人的心说话。同时也兴起有相同代祷经历的弟兄姐妹经验分享来彼此提醒专注在神国度的事。相信神在预备我们做更多与代祷相关的服事！哈利路亚！感谢主！

TESTIMONY

2019 年终感恩分享

BY JAMES ZHOU



又到了年底感恩节的时候了，恩典雅歌小组组织了一个年终聚会，聚会的主题分享是每个人分享这一年神所给你的恩典和祝福，以及你所要感恩的事项。你的感恩清单是长还是短呢？我的清单很长，从健康、家庭到一切所需，但今天我想分享的是最大的祝福，就是神所赐的同在，内心的平安和喜乐，是我最想感恩的。这一点很抽象，我能否说得明白，让你读完也可以同样经历呢？

2019年是个特别的年份，从工作的角度，我只在年初工作了两个月，其余的时间是在一种半退休的状态。52岁，就进入半退休的状态，我进入了一种回忆和无所作为的状态，焦虑和颓丧的情绪主导了我，我陷入了抑郁的状态。直到有一天我读到彼得前书1:24-25：芸芸众生皆如草，荣华不过草上花，草必枯干花必残，唯有主道永长存。

这个道就在传讲的福音中。这段话直击我的心灵，拿走了我内心所有的焦虑和不安，让我聚焦在神的话语上。紧接着是

彼得前书5:7-10：“你们要将一切忧虑卸给神，因为祂顾念你们。务要谨守，警醒。因为你们的仇敌魔鬼，如同吼叫的狮子，遍地游行，寻找可吞吃的人。你们要用坚固的信心抵挡他，因为知道你们在世上的众弟兄姊妹也是经历同样的苦难。那赐诸般恩典并召你们与祂一同享受永恒荣耀的神，在你们经历短暂苦难之后，必亲自复兴你们，并赐你们刚强、笃定和坚立。”

（备注：以上的中文圣经经文并不是和合本，而是我在手机应用上的版本读到，然后对照英文圣经后用自己的理解加以修改而成）。神的应许和承诺是何等的美好，将我心中的一切乌云驱散，给了我莫大的安慰和鼓励。

人的一生是这样的短暂，区区三万天（如果我们能够活到82岁），我们最大的祝福就是尽早进入神的安息，而不是被焦虑和恐惧笼罩。进入神的安息，并没有发生在信主的同一天，对于我来说，这个进程竟然花了接近三十年。因为进入神的安息后，我的内在生命发生了根本的改变，我好像回到了少年时代，又重新充满了对外部世界的好奇，求知的欲望和尝试的勇气。感谢赞美主！



Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one

讚美天父
讚美耶穌
讚美聖靈三一

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