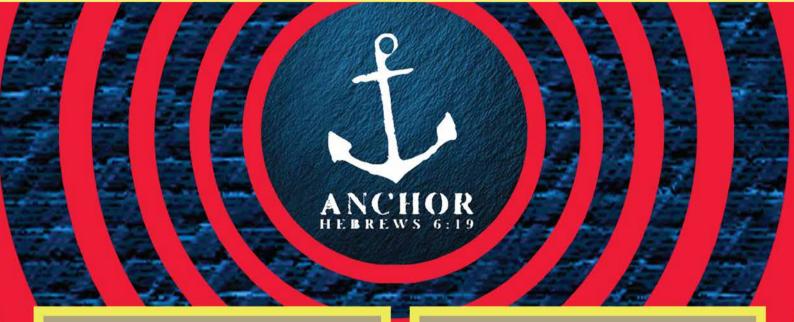
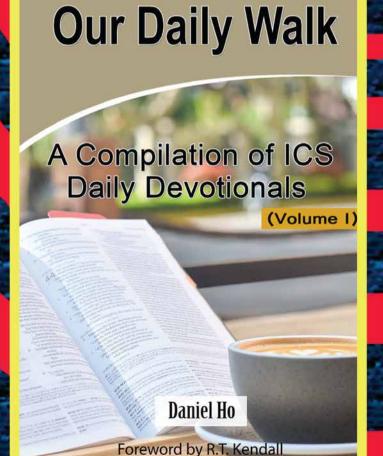
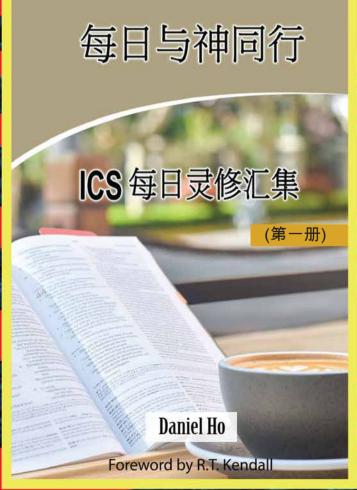
- G2 Mission Trip Bangkok, Thailand
- Anchor Youth Group New Director
- Devotionals Overview

- TEC Launches New Services
- Internship at ICS
- Testimonies







Editor's Desk

Welcome to the 2nd edition of The Vessel for 2020! In this issue, we featured the G2 Mission Trip to Bangkok, Thailand from last October and provided an overview on some ICS ministry updates.

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned the whole world upside-down, causing an unprecedented cross-border lockdown and global economic crisis this year. TEC has launched 3 new timely key services to meet the needs of the affected communities during this period of uncertainty. These services include the COVID-19 info Hub, the Employment Platform, and the C.A.R.E.S. helpline.

Although church meetings have been suspended since late January, ICS has been preparing weekly Online Sunday Services and cell groups have been meeting online via Zoom. Anchor Youth Group has also been meeting online via Zoom as our new director Sarah joined us in March. We also have a new intern on staff joining us from Thailand this year to help out with Kids Church.

A new Devotional team was formed since last April to continue providing us with ICS daily devotionals, which are accessible on the WeChat Official Account ("ICSHisWord") and on the ICS website. Since mid-May, audio and video readings of the daily devotionals have been added to help with reading and hearing His Word.

Since all church events for the first half of this year got cancelled, we included photos of some past key events including Church Camps, Easter egg hunts, and Family Day to refresh your mind. We look forward to the day that we can meet and worship God in physical congregation!



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

Editor: Brian Lin, Designer: Joel Marinas Associate Editors: Joseph Mak Contributors: Zoe Wang, Sarah Bingham, Audrey Chang, Salyonn Koh, Tay Pajaree Chaikasemsan, Amanda Abel and Gracie Tan Photographers: Eric Chan, Akari Wei, Kong Siang Lian, Zhi Min Wu, Patrick Huang, Leonardo Lazo, Brian Lin



International Church of Shanghai | Sunday services: 9am & 11am | Shanghai Marriott Hotel Hongqiao | 2270 Hongqiao Road (intersection with Jianhe Road)

info@icshq.org | www.icshq.org



ICS Singapore | Sunday pre-service prayer: 9:45am / English service: 10am Hotel Fort Canning (Lavender Ballroom) | 11 Canning Walk, Singapore 178881

P: +65.97487209 | info@inchristsq.org | www.inchristsq.org

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Pastor Says.

Greetings from Shanghai!

I trust that all is well and that God's grace is sufficient for everyone during this unprecedented time. Praise the Lord for answering our prayers by sending us Sarah Bingham as our new Youth Director. May the Lord grant her grace and wisdom to provide pastoral care, teaching, and journeying with our youth.

Let us continue to pray for the reopening of the church and for normalcy to return as soon as possible. Meanwhile, may you prosper holistically till we are able to congregate again!

God's riches blessings!

Pastor Daniel Ho

Senior Pastor - ICS The People's Republic of China

G2 Mission Trip

BANGKOK, THAILAND

by Zoe Wang

he memories of my journey to Bangkok are still fresh in my mind. It was the most unique and rewarding trip that I have ever experienced in my 15 years of life.

Thailand has always been a mysterious destination for me. In October 2019, I stepped on the plane to Bangkok without any idea of what to expect. Over the course of 7 days, I learnt about the culture and traditions of Thailand. Traveling around Thailand was a whole new experience. Navigating the subway lines, traveling (or rather flying) on a Tuktuk, as well as

deciding which boat was cheaper for traveling was something that I had never done before.

One of my favorite part of the trip was the variety of cuisines in Bangkok. I was a bit skeptical about some of them at first, but I learnt to love the food in Thailand and it has become one of the things that I miss the most about Bangkok.

Our visit to the Immigration Detention Center had the most profound impact on me. I was troubled when I first heard that we were each going to be assigned to a stranger to talk to and pray for. On top of that, we

would have to find them among a crowd of people. The inside was nothing like what I had imagined. The huge crowd of people on the other side were all wearing bright orange jackets. What I could not believe was that there were so many people crammed in such a small area.

We scattered and started to find the person that was assigned to each of us. It was hard as people were shouting, waving and holding up pieces of paper. I managed to find my assigned girl and she told me that she has been there for many years and her living conditions were poor. She talked about her wish to go



back home and to go to university. I listened and prayed for her, told her to trust in Jesus, as He will lead the way.

Later on, I overheard Akari, our mission trip leader talking to her assigned girl. What struck me was how joyful she was, as she had a beautiful smile and believed that she would soon be able to go back home. She taught me a very important lesson: don't lose hope, face life with joy and an open heart even in the worst circumstances.

During this trip I overcame my fear of public speaking by leading worship on my own. Initially I refused, but after a second thought I agreed and I haven't regretted it since. I had so much fun leading the kids in worship with hand motions. A huge shout out to our team for giving me this opportunity to worship the Lord with the kids at church.

There was one incident with the youths that left an impression in me. After meeting up with the youths for lunch, we went to grab some ice-cream for everyone. Two of the youths came along with us and gave a pack of Oreos to us as we left the convenience store.





It may seem like a small gesture, but this act of kindness really made my day. He taught me the importance of kindness, no matter if it is to someone that you have known for years or a complete stranger that you have just met.

I am also grateful for our team, even though we are different, we are united in Bangkok through Christ and our heart to serve others. There were laughter, disagreements, sadness, joyfulness and lots of food (and Thai Tea)! This trip would not have been so amazing if not for every member of the team: Akari, Amanda, Celine, Joe, Sunny and Tasha. Thank you all for making this such a memorable journey and I cannot wait for the next time to serve together again.

NEW DIRECTOR

ANCHOR YOUTH GROUP



My Sunday school teacher was a key person who guided me in taking steps to love and trust God in my own life. A few years later, after realizing that living my way was not satisfying to me or to God, I prayed for months for His guidance and direction. It was spring of 2012, and I was graduating from college when I found myself in another formative transition in faith, deepening my spiritual life with God and utterly committing myself to Him. No longer wishing to have two faces, living my own way with some people, while another way for the Lord among others.

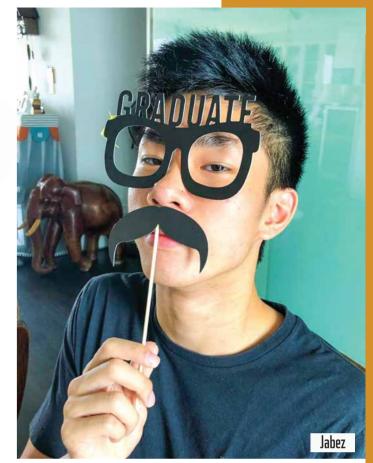
Hello ICS! I'm Sarah Bingham, your Anchor Youth Director. Let me introduce myself!

I'm originally from the U.S. but relocated to Shanghai in March 2019. I was raised in the Church and I'm truly blessed that the last four generations of my family are all Christians. I cannot actually remember a time when I did not believe in God. However I began to have a more personal relationship with God as I graduated from high school.

Since then the Lord has afforded me a great deal of adventure, adaptation, and growth in my faith and understanding. I taught English in a technical college in Tianjin from 2012 to 2014, and then worked for a parachurch organization called Young Life from 2014 to 2019. All the while, I was completing Bible classes through Fuller Seminary. During those stateside years, I ministered to youth age 14 to 22 who had disabilities. This required me to share about spiritual things in a simple and practical way.

Now as I join you here in Shanghai, I am excited and honored to befriend our youths in our ICS community! I hope to lead us in growing in our faith together. I also hope to help create opportunities where our youths will feel comfortable and be able to invite their friends to join in activities and worship.

The youth group have been meeting together online via Zoom every Sunday evening since April. Our sessions are fun and interactive, yet





we all await the day when we can gather together physically - face to face! While it is still uncertain as to when we might be able to meet for Sunday services again physically, ICS staff are hoping to be able to hold the Word and Spirit Conference as well as Kids Church VBS in the fall, where Anchor Youth will be invited to serve at VBS when we resume. The city-wide youth retreat is also in the works, and hopefully will be held in its usual time slot in early October, given the local authorities permit the gathering and the necessary precautions are taken.

Please feel free to email **anchor@icshq.org** if you have questions, comments, or concerns that you would like to share.

Overview Devotionals

by Audrey Chang



round April of 2019, Pastor Daniel asked 3 of us (Elizabeth Sung, Dr Charles Poon and Audrey Chang) to take over the seemingly daunting task of writing the ICS daily devotionals. Pavel Hoffman who had previously written them, was getting

ready to go back to Sweden. There was excitement coupled with a slight sense of trepidation in taking over this Ministry from him. Nevertheless, we took on this challenge under the initial guidance of Pastor Daniel. One of the main aims of this Ministry is to reinforce Pastor's teachings in smaller portions on a daily basis.

There were of course teething problems, but they were relatively minor. As a team, we listen to each other's ideas and build them into rules for writers to adhere to when writing the devotionals in order to encourage consistency and standardisation. By

God's grace, each month we have met or exceeded the number of daily devotionals required and the team has really worked hard to accomplish this.

The team has grown from 3 writers with Brian Lin who supports us tirelessly, to currently 6 writers. Past writers included Gwen de Smet, Victoria Ng and Fern Teo. The current team besides the original writers, include Maish Naidoo, Daphne Pok and Jeff Kwek. Echo Wang, who is in Singapore, also supports the team with her translating skills. More recently since mid-May, we have added audio and video readings of the daily devotionals and the team members who do these are Maish Naidoo, Anna Braithwaite and Chris Barnard.

We truly believe God is walking with each of us in the team and we have learnt so much about Him through Pastor's sermon notes. For example, one of the writers whilst writing the series on Faith,





experienced her own faith growing as the Word sunk into her heart. Being part of this team requires commitment and can be time consuming, but it is also very rewarding as we learn so much about God and letting His Word sink into our hearts.

To give a general overview of what actually goes into producing one devotional, here are the steps. The writer who has been allocated a sermon, has to read and truly understand the sermon messages. It is then broken down into different sections, where each section represents one devotional. Once completed, checked and approved, it is sent to the Chinese translation team to be translated. The translation is then reviewed for accuracy. Meanwhile, the English version is sent to the assigned reader to be recorded as an audio or video file which is then posted together with the written version of that day.

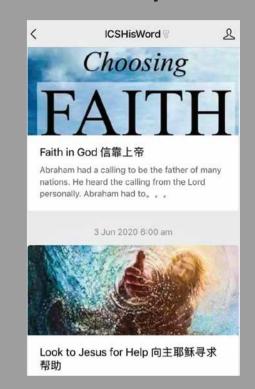
To date, the team has completed more than 400 devotionals. Of these, 90 have been selected and published into a book. Praise the Lord!!! Our God has provided people with willing hearts who sacrificed their time to do this. What an amazing year it has been for the team. It has definitely surpassed our initial expectations.

We pray and hope that the devotionals will reach the hearts of many who are hungry for the Word and/or seeking comfort or guidance in their daily lives. We also pray that through them, God's Word will be firmly planted into your hearts through the reading or hearing of the Word. As it is said in *Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)*" So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

We are constantly looking for people to join our team as writers, readers or translators.

If you think this is something you have been called to do, please feel free to contact audrey chang 98@yahoo.com

You can access ICS Daily Devotionals via:



WeChat Subscriptions Official Account: "ICSHisWord"



ICS website: http://icshq.org/icshqorg/ics-devotionals/





TEC LAUNCHES BRAND NEW SERVICES TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS

by Salyonn Koh

Shanghai is a second home to many of us here. Being a blessing to the community is essentially what The Expatriate Center's (TEC) vision of "Building A Home Away From Home" is all about. With the outbreak of Covid-19, all the events and activities previously planned by the team were disrupted. Nevertheless, the pandemic showed us how vulnerable the affected community was, and how TEC could play a role in making a difference to cater to the immediate needs.

In cooperation with ICS and our other Ambassador Centers, TEC has been identifying and addressing new issues brought on by the virus. Over the last few months, through the combined efforts of our network and volunteers, TEC has launched the COVID-19 Hub, the TEC Employment Hub and TEC C.A.R.E.S. to help address concerns that have surfaced during this critical period.

COVID-19 HUB

A one-stop hub where you can obtain the latest news and updates on COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Hub was first launched on 10th Feb 2020 – the first working day after the Chinese New Year . Prior to the launch of the hub, the TEC team received many questions and concerns from the public. To address these queries, the team made direct calls to various government hotlines, consulted the Hongqiao Service Window for Overseas Talents (Gubei) on policies-related issues and followed local and international news channels for the latest updates. The information collected was thereafter translated and consolidated onto this platform for easy access.

"This hub has been so useful! I share it all the time. Thanks so much for keeping it updated. Appreciate all the work your team is doing! A lot of mamas are worried about what their families will face when they get here!"

- Ange, Shanghai Mamas



TEC EMPLOYMENT HUB

A one-stop bilingual platform that aims to connect job seekers to potential employers and vice versa.

In the era of digital (mobile social media) recruiting, the TEC Employment Hub is powered by AJINGA and supported by the Hongqiao Service Window For Overseas Talents. This bilingual platform provides a mobile application management system for individuals and organisations. It is used not only to assist foreigners, overseas Chinese returnees and local professionals to obtain employment in Shanghai, but it is also designed to accelerate the job matching process, offer employment-related guidance and development opportunities.





The TEC Job Matching platform was such a gift during my job search. I was looking for a good position with a reputable company, and I knew any employers would be prescreened by TEC. The process was userfriendly, and I was able to tailor my application to positions that I was qualified for. The service was prompt as well, as I had my CV reviewed quickly and sent out to companies within 3 business days. Everyone was so helpful and professional, and I am looking forward to starting work at my new job!

I was "locked up" at my home in Shanghai for two months without a job and my husband had to fly back home as there were no more jobs available in the Shanghai. While I was looking for some jobs to augment our income, my friend called me and told me the news about the blessings from a company that was seeking to hire a full-timer. I grabbed the opportunity and applied immediately. With that, I want to give thanks for TEC for being a channel of blessing!

LOOKING TO HIRE?

If your company is looking to recruit, reach out to us by sending an email to employment@tec.place with the name of your organisation, a contact person's name, phone number and e-mail address (to be used to manage the job posting(s).

如果贵公司有任何职缺,请发送机构名称、联系人姓名、手机及邮箱至 employment@tec.place,与我们联系。(用于发布公司职位信息)。



TEC C.A.R.E.S.

one-stop support station that provides informational articles, outreach channels and resources for people in distress or for people who would like to show care and support for their loved

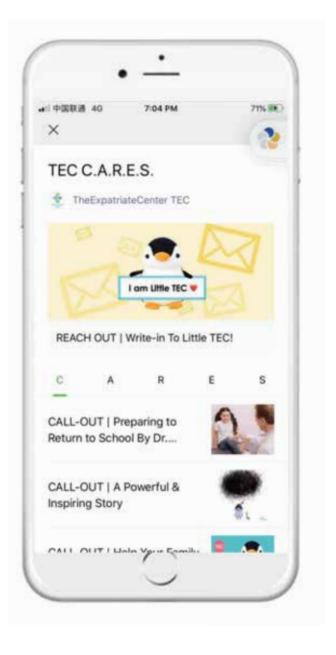
With many uncertainties during this period, people have been reported struggling with relationships with their families and loved ones, their careers and even their personal well-beings. The anxiety and fears are real, but to guote one of our partners, Mr. Louis Seah, "Change starts with being aware, followed by the willingness to change".

The heart behind TEC C.A.R.E.S. is to create a safe support environment for people going through difficulties. Whether it is dealing with issues at home or in the workplace, this platform serves to help anyone that is looking for that ray of light.



在这样的季节里, 我们关注重视你的需

要,专门推出了TEC关爱平台。



Here, you will find helpful articles that may address the problem you are going through; you can write-in to our TEC mascot, Little TEC, to share with us your troubles and receive advice from him; you can also sign-up for workshops and courses to get yourself better equipped to manage the situation. Lastly, you can also seek professional help through the TEC network of recognised medical and healthcare partners.

Here, you will be able to find useful information that help you identify tell-tale signs ("C"all-out), learn more about various conditions ("A"wareness), share your stories to hear from Little TEC (think Aunt Agony!) or encourage others ("R"each Out), pick up skills and knowledge to support those in need ("E"quipping) and be connected to various help channels ("S"eek Help).

在这里, 你可以找到有用的信息来帮助 你甄别(("C"all-out)你的状况;通过 了解("A"wareness)栏目来学习不同的 心理健康; 把你的故事分享给我们的小 TEC. 鼓励他人来("R"each Out)伸出 援手; 一起学习一项技能或者知识来装 备("E"quipping)自己更好的去帮助有 需要的人;通过其他的渠道来连结彼此 和求助("S"eek Help)。

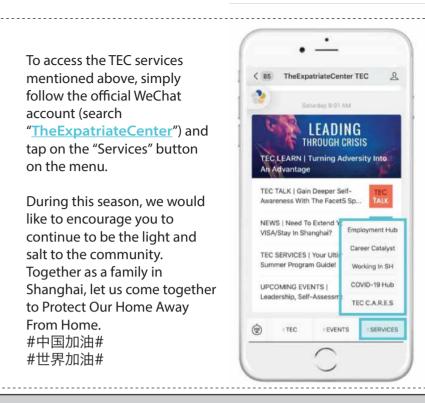
When you feel like you are all alone, know that there is hope. This letter is written for you, and to you. TEC and our healthcare partners want you to know that we are present, ready and willing to journey with you towards that ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

当你感到你很孤单,你要心存希望。这 封信就是写给你,和你的。TEC和我们 的心理健康伙伴想要你知道, 我们现在 非常愿意并已经准备好和你同行,-迎向 黑暗的尽头那束希望之光!

Keep up the good fight! 坚持! 一起加油!

Much Love 很多的爱♥ The TEC Family 来自TEC(外籍人士中心)大家庭 To access the TEC services mentioned above, simply follow the official WeChat account (search "The Expatriate Center") and tap on the "Services" button on the menu.

During this season, we would like to encourage you to continue to be the light and salt to the community. Together as a family in Shanghai, let us come together to Protect Our Home Away From Home. #中国加油# #世界加油#



UPCOMING TEC EVENTS For more information on

- TEC LEARN | A Cooking Expedition World Series Watch the webinar for free or register to get the ingredients delivered to your doorsteps Every Sat (till 25 July), 1pm, Zoom Webinars
- ◆TEC LEARN | 生命奇妙之旅 Conducted in Chinese, Life & Career Mentoring Course Sat, starting 11 Jul, 10:30 – 12:00, 6 sessions
- TEC SHINE | Forum With Expatriates In Shanghai Reflections on COVID-19 and Cooperation for the Future Sat 11 July, 1pm, Golden Tulip Shanghai Rainbow
- TEC LEARN | Alpha Parenting Children and Teenagers Course Parenting Children Courses (0-10YO, English & Chinese), Parenting Teenager Course (11-18YO, Chinese) Tue, Wed or Sun starting 12 July, 5 sessions per series
- TEC LEARN | Shanghai Mamas Coffee Morning Perfect opportunity to get to know fellow moms and learn about each other's parenting experiences Every Wed, from 1 July, 10am, Playmaker Changning Raffles City
- TEC LEARN | Character Education With Puffy Improve your child's English comprehension and learn character building values Every Sat, 10 Online Lessons (Ongoing, sign-up anytime!)

If you would like to find out more about the event or would like to sign-up for the classes, follow our WeChat account (search "The Expatriate Center") or drop us an e-mail (admin@tec.place)

INTERNSHIP AT ICS

BY TAY PAJAREE CHAIKASEMSAN

Sawatdeekha, my name is Tay. I was born in Chiang Rai province, in the North of Thailand. I grew up in an all-girls hostel that is supported by Gateway Connection. I came to Shanghai during the Chinese New Year period when China just started the nation-wide lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan. I am currently on a one-year internship to work and learn at ICS.

Gateway Connection is a foundation based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. They support girls, whose families may not be able to support them financially,

in getting an education. They help them have a better life or career plan for the future. The intention is for them to go back to help their families or the people around them. After I graduated, I chose to work for Gateway Connection because I appreciate what they have given me. This place gave me an opportunity to study and helped to make my life better

I first became introduced to ICS back in 2018 when they were arranging mission trips to visit Chiang Mai. I helped to coordinate, facilitate and





Classroom of Discovery



bring them around as a local guide. I got to know ICS as a church, and the members better during the mission trip time spent together. I have always heard people saying that Shanghai is a very modern, fast-paced and technologically developed city. This is one of the reasons that makes me decide to come to ICS to do my internship here in Shanghai. I want to experience the world out there, to broaden my views and learn from new perspectives and cultures.

I am currently involved in ICS Kids Church ministry. I get to learn and do what I never expected before. It trains me to be disciplined and responsible for all the work that we have. This has been a really good experience for me so far and this place has already made an impact in my life.

I want to thank Pastor Daniel for giving me the opportunity to grow and mature as a Christian and as a person. Thank you Jesus! I am so blessed to be part of ICS and this family. I look forward to the day that I can meet you all in person when church resumes Sunday services.



Testimony

Way-maker,
Miracle Worker,
Promise Keeper,
Light in the Darkness!

by Amanda Abel

Over the past 40 years, I have seen our Glorious Lord moving in the earth; I am awed to watch the Living Christ at work! I have seen the miracles of new spiritual births, healings, and deliverances in Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Vietnam and China. This is a blessing far beyond any sacrifice, pain, suffering, or multiple moves.

At the age of 20, on a mission trip, I heard an audible voice telling me to return to Africa and serve His people. The sheep knows the Shepherd's voice, and we obey. God's call was irrevocable and the call continues to this day to love Him and make Him known.

I have had the joy to love and serve Jesus in Shanghai for 10 years. I arrived with two teenagers, two college students in the USA, and faith in my heart that my God could restore beauty from ashes in my life (Isaiah 61). After 25 years of missions, I was returning to Asia, single and as a Christian "marketplace" worker at Concordia International School.

I could never have imagined all the miracles and works of God that I would see. The first Sunday service at worship, a woman asked if I would pray the sinner's prayer with her. This was a real affirmation from the Heavenly Father that the harvest time was ready. I continued to worship God and study His word to be prepared for every opportunity. Each evening, I listed every sighting and blessing from God and my journals were full! ICS'



church vision is "blessed to be a blessing" (Gen12:2). It seemed that the more I served and prayed for others, the more blessings and goodness of God I saw.

Our postor and speakers at ICS,

brought me into a deeper

relationship with Jesus and a

relationship with Jesus and a

better understanding of my true

identity/authority in Christ.

Some wonders that I witnessed and prayed for with my cell group and other sisters include: healing of cancer, babies born to barren women, the jobless finding jobs, depressed teens set free, teens tormented by demons set free, G1 and G2 mission trips into prisons, Mongolia mission trip with my family, PRC salvations, TEC events,

worship/intercession times in the tangible presence of the Most High, courage to present professionally, and salvations and restoration in my own household. The miracles continue to this day, even in the midst of Covid-19 as healings continue to happen and intercession continues on through online platforms including WeChat and Zoom.

In my first trip to Israel in 2017, the Father captured my heart for the nation. I have since returned twice more and the same audible voice I heard in my 20's has spoken clearly, telling me to follow Him. As I pray, resting in His Word and His presence, I look to Him to align me with the Bride of Christ in Israel, to serve in the harvest. Please join in the harvest in the days to come!

The wilderness and the desert will be glad, it will blossom profusely, encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble, and say to those with anxious heart, take courage, fear not. The ransomed of the Lord will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, they will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (extracts from Isaiah 35).



After these things I looked and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. (Revelation 7:9)



Testimony



God's Protection during COVID-19 Epidemic Crisis

by Gracie Tan

uring the Marketplace session over Zoom, we split into small groups to share how COVID-19 has impacted us and how we have overcome.

During the sharing, I was reminded of how God answered my prayers of protection over my workplace last year. I would like to share this testimony to testify of God's goodness and protection.

In March last year, I did a weekend prayer walk with my mom over my workplace, anointing each corner of the building with olive oil. I chose a weekend to do so as there were less people around. Security guards were wondering what I was doing being outdoors for so long, so I pretended that I was inspecting the facility, while murmuring the silent prayers and touching each corner of the building with olive oil in the shape of a small cross. The whole process took around 45 minutes to complete.

I worked in a foreign enterprise food manufacturing company in a small county, located around one hour's drive from Hefei city. We have 300+ staffs, a majority of whom are factory workers. Operating in the factory, the chances of injury or accidents are higher compared to employees working in the office. People in the county have simple lives where they work hard during the day, and go home to their families after work. Many of them have young children. My prayer throughout the whole walk was quite specific -

"Lord, we pray for your protection over this place, the workers who work here, and things to run smoothly. Let there be no accidents so that they can come to work safely, and go home safely to their families. Amen."



When Covid-19 hit, praise the Lord as none of our 300+ workers became infected. In fact, the whole county had zero cases. Several of our office workers are from Hefei city, where there had been thousands of infected cases, but yet they were protected from the virus as well. The CEO actually went to Wuhan in the beginning of January for a 2 day business trip, and we held a company annual dinner with all the staff after that. It is truly by God's grace that we are protected throughout this period. To help tide over the cash flow of the company, senior management and managers agreed to a 3 month pay cut, but the factory workers will still receive their full salary.



Adding to that, our company is also a blessing to the frontline healthcare and government workers, where we were among the first groups to provide them with masks and hand sanitizers. This was the period during Chinese New Year, where purchasing these items was extremely difficult, but as a food manufacturing company, we had them in large stock. We were also the first few enterprises permitted to resume

operations, allowing our employees to go back to work and to fulfil the wave of orders from the supermarkets and e-commerce sources. Although we are still affected as the majority of our business comes from food services, we are thankful to still have the supermarket and e-commerce channels to help mitigate the loss.

Praise the Lord who sees us through. Amen.



