



South Africa Christina & KoTa Jen Prayer Letter July 2020

Dear Prayer Partners,

Even though South Africa is not the most populated country in Africa, it has the highest number of COVID-19 cases (more than 50%). As of today (July 27th), the total number of confirmed cases has exceeded 450,000 with over 7,000 casualties. Comparing to the top three countries, it is not as enormous; however, it is quite astonishing when considering how the figures spiked in the last 60 days. At the beginning of June, there were 30,000 cases, with an increase of 120,000, it reached a total of 150,000 cases at the end of June. It came to over 450,000 cases at the end of July - a 300,000, two-fold jump! Currently, the number of new daily COVID-19 cases is running over 10,000. It is indeed out of control! To make matters worse, over 5,000 medical personnel had already been infected. This puts an even greater burden on the already inadequate medical infrastructure. Please pray for South Africa. May the Lord shower His mercy on us, especially those who have caught the virus.

The dire situation in South Africa was due to the premature reopening of the country from its strict lockdown. The government succumbed to the pressure of labor unions as economic concern was put before the health well-being of its people. WHO had already warned South Africa on its decision, but that did not stop the government from downgrading its national emergency to Level 3 and resuming operation of some of its business and manufacturing sectors on June 1st. As it stands, the economy still looks grim; coupled with the accelerated rate of infection, South Africa is burning on both ends!

Yet, God still reigns and does wonders! A week ago, one brother in Durban and one sister in Newcastle contracted the virus. We all joined in intercessions for them for God's protection and healing. Praise the Lord! They are now in recovery after taking some Chinese medications during their quarantine. In the month of July, the Newcastle church delivered food parcels to two of the poor neighborhoods. They put up a "Jesus Loves You" banner and showed their Christian love in action to those who suffered from unemployment and hunger. The Lord will be pleased (Matt. 11:42).

In addition to the three weekly worship services and two Bible study meetings, we had added a third Bible study for some sisters from various cities around South Africa. They are living in remote areas and do not have access to Chinese churches. Due to the new popularity of the online platform, we are able to get together from hundreds of miles apart. We are totally enjoying the fellowship and feel like long-lost friends! The Lord had promised Joshua the land as far as he could put his feet on; now He gives us the territory as far as the internet can reach!

Lately, Ko-Ta had the opportunity to help a sister who was counseling two other sisters with their marriage issues. She shared God's Word and prayed with them. Praise the Lord! A couple reunited, and an unborn baby was saved! They only met online; but because of her genuine love and caring, a trusted bond was formed. This kind of indirect counseling does provide a certain degree of privacy they needed. God works in all circumstances. As we submit ourselves to serve, we will be a useful vessel for His marvelous deeds!

Prayer Requests:

1. We thank God for His healing for our brother and sister.
2. Please continue to pray for the government in South Africa that they will set up correct policies in containing the virus as well as protecting the medical staff.
3. We thank God for keeping us healthy during the pandemic.
4. Please pray for the smooth running and steady attendance of our on-line meetings.
5. Please pray for our brothers' and sisters' commitment to serve the Lord at all times.

In His service,
Ko-Ta & Christina