



Germany
Karen Tang
Prayer Letter
October 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?”
Psalms 8:3-4

Last letter I mentioned about things happened during the Dragon Boat Festival. But we just passed Mid-Autumn Festival. It seems that the pandemic did not hinder the time from passing by fast. In mid-July, I received a call telling me that the brother whom I mentioned in my last letter that he had bladder infection was admitted into intensive care unit due to the loss of much blood. A few days later, I went to visit him and found out that it was very troublesome to visit a patient during this pandemic. Not only that the visiting hours were cut short, one had to fill out an information card. When I arrived to the hospital, there was a line already. So I lined up without knowing that the guard had just passed out a form to be filled. I got the form only after I arrived at the entrance of the building. I forgot my handy number because I stored it in my phone and I wasn't able to open my file since the internet signal was very weak. I had to call a brother in order to find out my phone number to be able to fill out that form. Then the guard let me in after checking my temperature. Since the brother who called me didn't tell me the room number, I asked the information desk. After hearing the instruction, I wasn't sure I understood what was told to me. When I arrived at the entrance of the intensive care unit, I understood what was instructed to me. A nurse brought me to the old brother's room. The brother told me that he went to visit his old boss because his new boss closed the restaurant for a short holiday. He slept at his old boss' workers dormitory that night. Because of much blood loss, he fainted. A worker there saw the blood on the floor and called the ambulance. He had many bruises on his face probably caused by knocking on something while falling. He was moved out of the intensive care unit for some days before moving to the normal ward. He was discharged a few days later. Thank God that he has recovered much better.

After staying at home for a long time due to the shutdown, our brothers and sisters in the Giessen bible study group organized an outing. Everyone was happy to see each other and breathed some fresh air while walking around a lake on a sunny warm day. We sat down on a grassy place family by family to eat our lunch. We also sang some Christian songs. Next to us were also some Germans resting. Out of curiosity, a German lady came to ask us if we were Christians just before she left that place. She saw that we said grace before eating. Without our knowledge we could testify God with a little action.

A post-doctorate came to work in the university in Giessen last year. Her husband accompanied her to live with her. The husband had gone to church from time to time in China. So, they came to our student bible study group. They liked to study the bible with us. Since the pandemic came, a young couple from our co-worker team started learning a marriage course with them on-line. Later on, our sister led the postdoc to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior. Unfortunately, her boss went to work in another city. So they had to move accordingly. In mid-August, some brothers and sisters along with them went to visit a city near where I live. I invited them to come after their visit and join an on-line evangelistic meeting. After the evangelistic meeting, our bible study group went on-line again so that we could say farewell to the postdoc couple. Once again, we confirmed their faith and blessed them with our prayers.

In mid-August, Frankfurt Chinese Church resumed actual meeting. Due to the many restrictions, less than 15 people come to church Sunday service because there is also live broadcast at the same time. Since we go to church, the brother who lives near our church opens his place for our bible study again. There are still some meeting on-line. As to the rest of our other fellowships, every one is still meeting on-line.

Three weeks ago, I went with a brother to do some visitations and met another old overseas Chinese. She was a friend of a sister. When she had cancer and was hospitalized, the sister went to visit her and prayed for her. So she likes prayers. But when the sister asked her to join our on-line bible study, she refused. She thought that bible study which in Chinese sounded like drinking tea together with people chit- chatting. She didn't really want to interact with Chinese people too much. After we explained to her what bible study meant, she was willing to have a look. Our brother helped her set up the app and taught her how to use it. When she joined us a second time, she was recognized by our 79 years old sister who hadn't seen her for a long time.

Since the pandemic, some of the students in Giessen bible study group were not willing to meet on-line. Since the couple mentioned above left Giessen, there is only one student left to join our on-line bible study. So, we decided to meet in church regardless how many students showed up. The first week, there was one student showed up. The second time, no student came, so we did the bible study on-line. Last week, we took the opportunity to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival and invited the students to have dinner together. Two students came. While at the restaurant table, we were able to share some of our testimonies. One student expressed that he believed God. But we wanted to make sure that he knew what kind of God he believed. He told us that whenever he was in Giessen, he was willing to join our bible study.

A sister and her family moved to Frankfurt from another city at the beginning of this year. Another sister introduced her to us and she had been attending our on-line bible study for some months. Recently, a brother learned that her family opened a restaurant during the pandemic (the contract was signed end of last year). The business was very bad. So the brother asked us to eat at that restaurant. It just happened that an exchanged student for one year was about to return home.

So, we decided to give him a farewell at the restaurant. Only then did we see the sister's face for the first time. Her parent treated us well. Her mother was happy to let her daughter joined the bible study after she saw that her daughter's health got much better after believing in God. We prayed for her mother also. Two weeks ago, her mother's fingers got pressed by some hard objects and one of the fingers got fractured. We went there again for a second time to give the sister a surprise birthday cake. We prayed for her mother again. The sister and family was very happy!

Thanksgiving and prayer items:

1. Thank God for healing the old brother! Pray that God will continue to keep him healthy and guide him to prepare for his retirement life!
2. Thank God for a safe move for the postdoc couple! Pray that God will help them adapt to the new environment and find a suitable church! For the time being, they are still joining Giessen's student bible study on-line. Pray that God will strengthen their faith!
3. Thank God for His grace that slowly we could find some old Chinese restaurant people and invite them to join our Cantonese bible study group. They are scattered in different places and many are retirees. Because of the pandemic, they were able to join us on-line. Thanks to our brother who helped install the App and taught them how to use it so they could join us. Although there were difficult times to join on-line in the beginning, they were happy to be able to join the bible study group. Pray that God will help the old lady so that she can understand God's words!
4. Pray that God will have mercy on the sister's restaurant business! Pray for a speedy recovery of her mother's finger! Pray that God will have mercy on those brothers and sisters who also own restaurant business so that they will have enough power to face this financial difficulties during this pandemic!
5. Pray that God will keep both our church and Giessen's actual meetings safe and that our brothers and sisters will have the peace in heart to join the meetings!

May God also keep you safe both in and out!

Serving Him,
Karen Tang