



South Africa
Christina & KoTa Jen
Prayer Letter
April 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

The electricity crisis in South Africa is worsening. Trying to relieve this pressure, the President has announced his intention to postpone the government's plans to close many high-pollution coal power plants. In addition, there are news that the BRICS Development Bank is considering lending to South Africa for replacing its worn-out equipment. However, these measures are not going to produce any immediate results. The most unbelievable thing is that one of the political parties (EFF) seized this opportunity to threaten with a country-wide strike if the government did not give the people of South Africa a three-day break. The government conceded, but everything quickly returned to reality after the three days!

Right now load shedding has reached 11.5 hours per day, and it will climb to another new level in no time. People have learned to live with it. Many homes are equipped with battery-operated lanterns that can last a few days during power outages. Many stores have to use their own diesel-powered generators to keep their business going. However, the loud rumbling sound and added pollution create more problems. Factories have to resort to the same solution, thus making it more costly and less profitable to operate. Coupled with the raising inflation rate and less consumer spending, businesses are struggling to survive. Some of the Chinese merchants have already relocated to other countries.

This has also been interrupting our weekly Bible study meetings. Due to rotating load shedding, different areas have different outage schedules every week. Sometimes we have to cancel our meetings due to low attendance. We pray for the Lord's mercy! Under the circumstances, our brothers and sisters still make good use of the limited time we have to encourage each other and build up each other's faith. We thank God that our weekly worship services are not affected.

Being away from our home country, our greatest fear will be unforeseeable mishaps back home. About two weeks ago, we learned from a member of one of our Bible study groups that Sister Lin had to rush back to China to make funeral arrangements for her son who passed away from a car accident in Nigeria. We have known Sister Lin for 20 years, and she is a faithful servant of the Lord leading different Christian groups on the internet. During our time in South Africa, she would make every effort to attend our yearly family retreat. His son is also a godly young man. Just last month, Sister Lin told us that her son had already quit his job in Nigeria, planned to return to China to get married and come to South Africa to join her. Imagine what a great shock and unbearable pain it would be! May the Lord's face shine on her and comfort her. We believe that our Lord will be with her all the way and will give her strength. She will soar on wings like eagles and praise God! Please pray for her.

Sister Zhuang's brother is a very successful businessman. She tried many times to share the gospel with him, but he used to tell her that he had no need for any religion. He seems to have everything, but he is poor inside; especially he has been experiencing tremendous marriage difficulties which ended in a rather ugly divorce. He begins to rethink everything. A common friend shared with Sister Zhuang that, not long ago, her brother downloaded the Chinese Bible in his cell phone and started asking her questions about Christianity. Please pray for Mr. Zhuang. May the Lord lead him out of darkness into light.

Please pray for the following:

1. May the Lord help the government to fight inflation, revive the economy and increase its employment rate.
2. May the Lord continue to bless the various on-line meetings so they will not be interrupted by electricity outages.
3. Please pray for the Lord's grace on Sister Lin and comfort her in her time of need.
4. Please pray for the salvation of Mr. Zhuang.

In His service,
Ko-Ta & Christina