



Germany  
Karen Tang  
Prayer Letter  
December 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

***“Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isa. 41:10***

The German government originally thought that the "light lockdown" ordered in November could control the Covid-19 pandemic and give people a Christmas and New Year holiday where everyone could meet. However, the pandemic situation continues to rise, and now there is a strict lockdown, restricting the number of people and families meeting. We have been living under “lockdown” situation for already 9 months. If it weren’t for the online meetings, even some sisters could not bear it. I have been reading the bible and praying with an older sister since the pandemic, but she feels a little depressed recently. The reason being that apart from reading and praying with me for about an hour, she spends the rest of the day alone at home. She said that now she lost the interest to watch TV series which she loved before. It may be related to the cold winter weather, and there has been little sunshine recently! Because of this strict lockdown, a sister who lives in a rural area and has some depression also had to cancel her trip to come to my house for Christmas.

Although this pandemic restricts our physical gatherings, the brothers and sisters of the Giessen Fellowship have made some breakthroughs in their spiritual growth. Everyone has more sharing and encouragement during the online meeting and they all agreed to memorize the scriptures together two months ago. At first, some brothers and sisters said that it was difficult. But in the second week, some sisters began to memorize more than the specified verse. Everyone sees the benefits of memorizing scriptures, and they are willing to do so, because God's words give them strength. A sister who was a little afraid of the pandemic before was willing to trust God's protection and let go of her worries. Another sister who has believed in the Lord and has been going to church for many years, but not very enthusiastic. Now she finds that God's words are too precious, and she wants to start a quiet time. The sister in charge of the student fellowship has also done a lot of caring ministry. Recently, she got some nice feedback when sending out some calendars. These people only come to our annual Christmas meeting but never come to the Bible study meeting. There is no Christmas meeting this year, but they are very grateful for the fellowship for remembering them after they received our calendars.

Because of the online meeting function, the members participating in the Cantonese Bible study are not restricted by geographic distance. Some join us from cities north and south of Frankfurt, and even brothers and sisters from UK. Due to the pandemic, our bible study was changed to online meeting and we added one more meeting, that is, twice a month. At the end of the year, we have just finished

studying a book. We will have weekly meeting starting next year, because we can let some new believers participate in the new believer training class. A sister from another city worried that if we meet physically, we will cancel the online meeting. We will not stop the online meeting because even our elderlies living near Frankfurt will not be able to attend physical gatherings. So, because of this pandemic, we will also change our mode of meeting in the future.

Although strict lockdown measures are implemented, as permitted by the law, two brothers and I will visit our brothers and sisters, as well as non-believers in the Cantonese bible study group to pass out calendars and biscuits, as well as masks sent by my mission (CEM). We can only meet them outside the door. We hope that a little gift may bring them some warmth in this cold weather and that God's love will fill them!

Thanksgiving and prayer items:

1. Pray that the Lord will have mercy on the people on this earth, so that the pandemic can be brought under control as soon as possible, and people can return to a little normal life! May the Lord have mercy on those brothers and sisters who have become depressed during the cold days! Pray that the Lord will give them light in their hearts, the ability and endurance to face these lockdown days!
2. Thank God for His grace for encouraging the brothers and sisters of the Giessen Fellowship to grow in their spiritual lives during the pandemic, gaining strength and peace in their hearts with the words of God! Thank God for healing a couple who had been infected with the Coronavirus and his son was not infected!
3. Pray for God's mercy on the students in Giessen. Because of the pandemic, those students who have been to our fellowship have not appeared for a long time and they don't like to attend online meetings! May our Lord keep them healthy!
4. Thank God for the older Cantonese speakers who join our Cantonese bible study through the online meeting! A few of them live on their own, so they are very happy to participate in the bible study. Pray that God will lead our next year's program so that the new believers' faith will be strengthened through the basic course!
5. Pray that God will keep us safe as we go out to distribute our gifts! May the Lord give them peace and joy in these days of lockdown so that they may understand the love of God!

Thanks to our God for your prayers and support in this special year!

May the Lord also keep you and your family safe and healthy!

Let's sing praise to our Lord and Savior in this Christmas and New Year season!

May the glory and praise be given to the Most High God!

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all!

Serving Him,  
Karen Tang