

疫症無情 人間有情

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2020 年 1 月武漢市爆發不知名的肺炎，同月 23 日武漢市封城，香港人風聞喪膽，爭先恐後撲買口罩。意想不到這個「新冠肺炎」一發不可收拾，不但禍及亞洲，也散佈至世界各地，至今仍未能止息。

當香港疫情日趨惡化，口罩短缺，人心惶惶，醫護人員的防護裝備也告急，這時遠方的兄弟，美國天鄰基金會趕忙為香港上網搜購各類醫療物資，先後三次不惜費用高昂空運到香港，受惠遍及天鄰隊員及他們教會和社區弱勢群體，我也將一批最高規格的醫護裝備送給東區醫院。看到大家接收物資後流露出感激之情，我深受感動，香港公民社會互助共濟的精神令人動容。

由於美國天鄰基金會 2 月下旬要出隊伊拉克，所以第四批醫療物資要等伊拉克隊完結後再空運。沒想到香港疫情未緩和，美國彼邦疫情大爆發，我急忙告知美國天鄰基金會不要再寄口罩留待自用。果然這批口罩幫助了美國教會，解決燃眉之急。當美國醫護人員急需 N95 口罩，香港兩位醫療隊員又將 N95 口罩速遞回美。感恩在最艱難的時刻，讓我們活出「朋友乃時常親愛，弟兄為患難而生。」(箴言 17:17)

由於「新冠肺炎」傳染力高，殺傷力強，各國紛紛封關，又限制聚集，天鄰的服務隊今年第一個前往伊拉克庫爾德斯坦自治區的唇顎裂隊和骨科隊(2 月 21 日至 3 月 1 日)也因疫情歷經波折，有抵步的隊員因來自香港不能入境，已入境的美國、澳洲隊員以及從倫敦出發的鄒醫生在做完第三天手術後因凌晨有疑似確診病人入院，剛做完手術和等候做手術的病人以及他們的家人都因懼怕染疫而全部逃回難民營。最終兩個醫療隊無奈取消所有手術提早回程。整形外科鄒錫權醫生記下的心聲：「雖然如此，我們很感恩可以為 8 個病人做了 21 台手術。」。

這個世紀災難，遠超過人們的知識和經驗，也殃及世界各國，令全球大部分活動停擺，天鄰不能倖免，今年所有服務隊被迫停頓下來。然而疫症無情，人間有情，透過科技通訊一日千里，天鄰繼續關心遠方苦困的人，也維繫天鄰的義工和支持者，互相守望禱告。四月初開始購買口罩送往馬達加斯加、伊拉克及吉爾吉斯斯坦等地的合作單位，又撥款資助吉爾吉斯斯坦一所孤兒院和基督教學校的營運，以免學校關閉，孤兒流浪街頭。8 月 4 日黎巴嫩首都貝魯特發生大爆炸，震驚了全世界，也牽動我們的心，「苦難如同身受，天涯若比鄰」，天鄰也撥款支援當地的救援和重建工作……

感謝上主豐富的供應，也感謝上主在疫情之下繼續使用天鄰成為「愛的使者」，在苦難的世界散播上主的愛和關懷。

原訂今年 11 月的感恩崇拜，雖然因疫情的限聚取消，然而我們的敬拜不會止息，我們的服侍也必因等候上主重新得力。明年是天鄰開展工作三十年，我們正編製特刊，記載及數算主恩，並且展望未來，希望與大家繼續攜手前進。

Passion in Time of Pandemic

Dorothy Leung (Board Member of HIS Foundation (USA))

January 2020, outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic started in Wuhan, China. Later in the same month, the city was locked down. People in Hong Kong were greatly frightened by the news and tried frantically to purchase surgical masks for protection. Masks were very hard to find. Before long, the pandemic spread to Asia and the rest of the world. There is still no end to this pandemic.

In January and February 2020, there was great shortage of surgical masks and protective gears in Hong Kong. Noting this demand, HIS Foundation (USA) started to purchase surgical masks and protective gears and shipped to Hong Kong three times with air cargo. The supplies rendered great help to HIS Foundation volunteers, churches, and communities. Some supplies were donated to a government hospital in Chai Wan, Hong Kong. Many recipients were deeply moved by this act of relief.

HIS Foundation (USA) was sending several medical teams to Kurdistan (Northern Iraq) in late February. The fourth shipment of surgical masks to Hong Kong was planned to be sent after the mission to Kurdistan was over. However, by then the pandemic started in the United States while the situation in Hong Kong improved. So, the surgical masks were sent to church and communities in the United States instead. N95 surgical masks quickly became a hard to find item in the United States. Knowing this shortage, HIS Foundation volunteers in Hong Kong sent back some N95 masks to the United States. In this time of adversity, we witness the spirit of Christian love among brothers and sisters in Christ. As stated in the Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

The HIS Foundation medical teams to Kurdistan were also affected by the Coronavirus infection. Some volunteers from Hong Kong were barred from entering Kurdistan. Team members from the United States, England, and Australia were allowed entry to the country. The plastic surgery team, however, was cut short because the hospital we used had admitted cases of suspected Coronavirus infection. When patients and families learnt that Coronavirus patients were in the hospital, they all left the hospital in a hurry. The orthopedic team scheduled to start after the plastic surgery team was canceled. Despite the interruption of schedule, plastic surgeon Dr. Chow said that it was still a blessing we were able to perform 21 surgeries in 8 patients.

Under the blow of pandemic, all other medical missions in 2020 are canceled. Time seems to have frozen and many activities are suspended. HIS Foundation, however, continues to use telecommunication to communicate with patients afar and provides support. In April and June, we purchased protective equipment and shipped to Madagascar and Kurdistan respectively. We provided funding to an orphanage in Kyrgyzstan to keep it open. In August, we send funding to Lebanon in response to a big explosion that killed and injured many.

God continue to use HIS Foundation as angel of love to different parts of the world.

2021 will be the 30th anniversary of HIS Foundation. We are planning on publishing two books to commemorate the wonderful works that God has done through our committed volunteers. I hope that we can continue the mission of passion for another thirty years.

