

*Here is some material, related to the theme of Sunday's on-line worship gathering, that can be used for **personal reflection** ... and/or **discussion** – with your spouse or your family or a friend (on the phone), or a group (on Zoom or similar) ...*

REFLECTION



Happy
Mother's
Day

As we reflect on the idea of 'Mother's Day' ...

Thinking about your experience of being a mother or having a mother (we all fit in there somewhere!) – are there things relating to that that you want or need to bring to God in prayer? There may be things that are wonderful and positive and that you want to give thanks for ... There

may be things that are painful and difficult, and which you can bring to God and lay before Him ... There may be someone you want to pray for – a child or mother or grandchild ...

Thinking of motherhood, how well do we as a church value the childless (voluntarily or involuntarily childless), and, also, single women, in our church community?

At this time when we are isolated in our bubbles – how might you be a brother or sister (or parent, or child) to those who are not in your blood family but are in your spiritual family?

SCRIPTURE

But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God ... John 1:12

So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him, you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. 1 Corinthians 12:26

GLOBAL MISSION

In 'normal' times, today would be a 'Global Mission Sunday' ... Here are some brief updates for our WBC global missionaries ...

From Whitney Lake, YWAM, Montana USA

Hi all, I am doing well over here in Montana. My state is pretty safe, and the county I live in hasn't had a new case of Covid-19 for 3 weeks. Our campus isn't running any schools this current quarter, but we are trying to figure out if we can run our summer quarter school, starting at the end of June. If so, then I would get the privilege of staffing our summer Endurance DTS, which is focused on sharing the gospel in outdoor ministry settings – please pray for clear direction for leadership if we are supposed to go ahead with this or not. Our campus set up one of our dormitories to be a safe haven for first responders/healthcare workers in this season if needed. Helping with food distribution, and mask making are a few of the other ways we are trying to bless and outreach to our community. Please be praying for continued wisdom for our leaders, for my students who had to transition home suddenly instead of getting to go on outreach, and for wisdom for myself to hear what God is saying for this season and the next. Miss you all! Let me know how I can be praying for you!

From Hannah Read Sharma, Interserve and LAMB School, Bangladesh

(and currently on 'home assignment' here in Whangaparaoa)

Life in Lockdown has been a little hard to take, but we are lucky compared to many around the world. With closures in Bangladesh, people who rely on daily earnings for their essential needs are now suffering and struggling to get their daily needs met. LAMB hospital has isolation wards prepared to deal with any COVID that arises, thankfully they have yet to have a positive case. Unfortunately, LAMB has suffered losses of many doctors resigning for varying reasons and has had to cut salaries across the board for the months of May and June at least. Personally, I have applied online for my NVR (No Visa Required) to go back to Bangladesh when possible, as it looks like Rotan won't be receiving a visa to come here any time soon.

GLOBAL MISSION

From Mike and Linda Higson, WEC and East-West College, Gordonton NZ

Pastoral Care needs have increased dramatically over the last 6 weeks. Many missionaries became 'stuck' between Ministry Countries and home countries which meant many distressed people and difficult situations to deal with. Many of these, praise the Lord, are now resolved. Our missionaries to Africa and India have been amongst the hardest hit by Covid-19 lockdowns. The people they minister to in these countries are struggling immensely as many are starving now as they are unable to work to earn their very daily bread. Medical services in these nations are woefully short of everything that is necessary to cope with people who are sick with Coronavirus. Chad has only 4 respirators in the whole country and these are in one hospital in the south of Chad, meaning that those in the north will have to travel thousands of kilometres to avail themselves of what may be a very necessary life support for them. In India, our missionaries report that because the country went into lockdown within four hours, thousands of people became stranded. The Indian Government shut down all transportation and within hours buses, trains, taxis, private vehicles and all forms of transport stopped. This meant that people who were more than 4 hours away from their homes at that time could not return there, leaving them stranded without food, money, clothing or accommodation. There are many people now without the necessities of life who will be in very dire and difficult situations. It is wonderful to report that all of our missionaries are now in 'safe' locations and are extremely resilient, even though they are living through very difficult and dangerous (Covid-19 is in villages, cities and places around them) situations in their field of ministry.

From Jeff and Ruth Auty, International Christian School, Hong Kong

To WBC on 6th May 2020

A brief summary:

Rushed off our feet

We can but bleat

How frantic our lives have been

Zoomed to the hilt

For which we weren't built

We struggle to stay kid-keen

Thirteen weeks school online

That could be fine

But we struggle to keep heads up

With masks on our face

We try to embrace

Our last 6 weeks of school is up

Autys 'Bonkers in Honkers'!

And still hoping to come to NZ for the "summer/winter" holiday.

GLOBAL MISSION

From Brent and Tracy Morgan, London U.K.

Brent (International Director, Leprosy Mission)

I am doing a combination of working from home and the office. My days consist of 6-7 hours of Zoom meetings with colleagues here in the UK and overseas. Lockdowns are pretty much everywhere the Leprosy Mission works. In places we have hospitals, governments are asking for us to assist with covid-19 response. No travel for 4 months (my longest stay at home ever!) which has actually been a blessing. Please pray for discernment and wisdom as we adjust how we work and serve those with leprosy in these new times.

Tracy (Hospital Chaplain and Radiographer)

I continue to work in my roles as a healthcare chaplain and radiographer at two different hospitals in London four days a week. Since I started two years ago, I have definitely seen a change in how the NHS and its workers are valued, with the impact the Coronavirus pandemic has had on people's lives in the U.K. Sadly, we have now become the country with the highest death rate in Europe. I am proud to be a 'kiwi' working here, and I know that I am in the place God has called me, for such a time as this. Yes, I do get to wear PPE, when I need to, and am grateful to work with such dedicated people in both radiology and chaplaincy. Thank you for your prayers for me, being on the frontline I do feel God's peace every day.

We hope you are all going well back in N.Z.

Take care and God bless. Brent and Tracy.

AND A BIT OF HUMOUR ...

(If you've read this far, you deserve it!)

Actual complaints received by a holiday resort chain:

~ "On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."

~ "We booked an excursion to a water park but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price"

~ "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."

~ "No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."

~ "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."

~ "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."

~ "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

~ "My sister woke up late and didn't get a free continental breakfast."

