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... who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14)

Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord,

A few months ago, no one could have imagined that the world would be like this. Politically, materially, and economically, life in every corner of the earth has been changed as a result of the coronavirus. Naturally, its influence did not bypass our mission field as well. As some of you maybe heard already, the college and campus church in Kenya were closed by the order of the Kenyan government. Bible Colleges and the churches in Rwanda and Tanzania have also been closed. For the first time since we came to Kenya as missionaries, the whole ministry has stopped.

It has been a very challenging experience to go through this situation. There has been a lock-down in the city of Nairobi where no one can go out or come in by air, rail, and road until May. There is also a curfew from 7 pm to 5 am, with the police patrolling every night and have been giving very strict and painful penalties to those who violate the regulations. Getting daily groceries became very difficult, yet it is essential. There is also a lack of supplies such as sanitizers or masks, causing some obvious frustrations. Even the reality of the limits of medical technology here brings anxiety over any possibility of the infection.

However, we thank God for that we are here “for such a time as this”. Since it is impossible to put our trust in man and the environment, every day becomes another testimony of His provision and protection. Also, this time of isolation has become our growing fellowship with the Word of God. Yes, our friends and family do worry about us and say that they want us to return home. But we can joyfully reply that this is the place where God wants us to be. And as the old hymn says, “where Jesus is, ‘tis Heaven there.”

One of the practical challenges we faced was having a funeral. We have tried to avoid any fellowship or group meeting. However, the funeral of a church member’s family was hard to refuse. It happened the day before Easter. The husband of one of our church members became sick on Saturday and was admitted to the emergency room. After being on oxygen for some hours, he went home with the Lord in the early hours of Easter. No, it was not from the coronavirus, but it was suspected that he died from cancer. The problem we faced was with the government regulations: social distancing, wearing masks for any outdoor service, only 15 attendants for the funeral, and the service could only be for one hour. Even the transportation was a problem as only 50% of the vehicle’s capacity could be seated.



Going to the hospital, to the mortuary, and then to the burial site was such an unforgettable experience, accompanied by tension and strain. We had to limit the funeral participants among the church members and family, and also had to cover most of the hospital, mortuary, and cemetery expenses since the family’s financial contribution was impossible. Honestly speaking, the funeral was a huge burden in a time like this. However, we thank God for the service. Legally, no one was allowed to preach in Kenya since all religious gatherings were prohibited. Nevertheless, this situation was different. The Lord used the funeral as an opportunity to preach the gospel for the unbelieving attendees! It was a joyful experience that we could minister this way, in a time like this, Please pray for us that the Lord will direct us to more opportunities in this field of service.

## THE INDEPENDENT BOARD FOR PRESBYTERIAN FOREIGN MISSIONS

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## Mission Field Prayer Requests

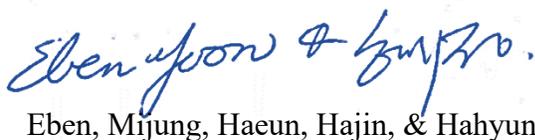
- Pray for Africa...
  - For people in Africa; the lack of supplies and medical technology
  - Especially for Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania where Bible Colleges have been established
  - For the disasters such as locust infestation, heavy rains and resulting floods
  - For safety and security
- Pray for the BCEA (Bible College of East Africa)
  - For BCEA colleges in Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania; all closed due to government regulations.
  - For students who are away from classes due to the corona pandemic
  - For BCEA graduates; most are in the ministry and are going through serious financial struggles
  - For the day to re-open the college, for the new term, new and returning students
- Pray for the BCEA Campus Church
  - Smartphones are not common in Kenya, so many of the church members can only be reached through phone messaging as they are not using apps such as Facebook, YouTube or WhatsApp. So we are sending out various Bible verses and meditations to help them spiritually. However, with these limitations, we ask that you would pray for the members that they will continue in their walk with the Lord at home.
  - Pray for the church members who have lost their jobs and having a difficult time financially and physically.
- Pray for the Yoon family
  - We are thankful that Haeun, our first child, made her public profession of faith on Christmas day, and joined the church. It was a joy for Eben to officiate such a ceremony. See picture below.
  - We thank God for our MKs; their faith and endurance in times like this in a foreign country
  - For the children's online studies
  - For Eben and Mijung, that we may continue to stand strong spiritually and physically

Humbly speaking, as missionaries living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we have not been challenged like those pioneer missionaries of the past. We were told they traveled many months to reach the foreign field, suffered physically against local diseases that even took their husbands, wives, and children. Even in Korea, many missionaries died from cholera, typhoid, smallpox, etc. Communication with their home country often took months to receive information. Isolation and assorted dangers were always a part of their mission life. There often were no regular salaries, no insurance; but by faith, they had sacrificed all for the Gospel. So, living in another generation of the missionary era, we cannot complain because of what we are going through today. We have a phone to make calls anytime, internet to communicate around the world, unstable but yet accessible electricity, and the availability of numerous medications. Yes, it is hard, but it is not that bad.

Once again, we thank God for His calling to the work of foreign missions. We are especially thankful for the privilege to be on the field in times like this and for the honor to carry on with various mission tasks. Pray for us that we may continually serve the Lord in faithfulness and with a beautiful testimony.

We are also thankful for your prayers and kind support. It may be a difficult time for all of us. However, our Lord will remember the passion and sacrifice of you faithful ones. May the Lord bless you and keep you as you are going through this global pandemic era.

In Christ,



Eben, Mijung, Haeun, Hajin, & Hahyun



Haeun, flanked by two other new members.