



# Coronavirus WATCH, PRAY, ACT

March 2020

## What Are We Seeing?

Jesus warns us to be alert, to watch, to pray and to listen to His voice. God is shaking the nations and the systems of this world whilst His Spirit is moving powerfully to unite and mobilise the Body of Christ in prayer and witness across the nations. He is LORD and is sovereign over all. How then should we respond to the epidemic of the previously unknown coronavirus COVID-19?

The number of people infected with COVID-19 is rising. Because the incubation period of this virus is long - between 2-3 weeks - many more people are already infected, through contact, but are not yet identified because they have no symptoms. There is a window of opportunity to stem the spread of infection through specific prayer and action. We resist and stand against the spread of fear, as we humble ourselves before God, our loving Father, and pray in the authority of Jesus' Name.

## How Should We Pray?

The Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray and prays in us, as we affirm our unity with the whole of the Body of Christ.

- We proclaim the Sovereignty of God over all things and affirm our trust in Him. We pray this virus be contained within boundaries the Lord sets and that this disease will ultimately serve the purposes of God and His Kingdom (2 Sam 7.22; Romans 8.28).
- We confess and ask God's forgiveness for all the ways our sin and the sin of our nation has made us vulnerable to this sickness and to its spread. We pray that Almighty God will have mercy on us and deliver and protect us from all evil as we turn to Him, through Jesus Christ, the only Saviour (2 Chron 7.14; Ps 91; 1 John 1.7-9).
- We pray for all those who are sick, to be healed; for those who are bereaved, to be comforted; for those in the medical, nursing and other caring professions to be given wisdom and protection; for those engaged in research into this virus to be given supernatural insight, revelation and inspiration (Ps 34; Prov 2.6).
- We pray for all those in positions of authority to be given wisdom and good counsel; we pray the Spirit of Truth will expose the underlying causes of this outbreak; we pray for right provision for all those affected by the impact of this epidemic (2 Chron 20.1-30).

## How Should We Act?

Simple precautions taken **NOW** can significantly reduce the spread of this disease and limit the impact on our national life and economy. Our motivation is not fear but a desire to act responsibly for the good of all.

- We should listen to and act upon the advice of those in authority, with consideration for the well-being of others as well as ourselves. Why not pray the Lord's Prayer during the recommended 20 second duration of hand-washing? Keep your hands folded, when not engaged in activity, as a reminder to pray and not to touch your face.
- We should be ready to share the love of God, especially with those who are fearful. This is a time of opportunity to reach out to neighbours and others whom we regularly encounter, finding ways to demonstrate God's love to those who are sick or in any kind of need.

## A Message of Hope

Chinese Christians in Wuhan are keen to encourage us at this time. They have had unprecedented opportunities to spread the Gospel of Jesus to those around them with many becoming Christian believers since the outbreak of this virus. Because they have been confined to their homes, they have enjoyed daily online prayer meetings and are also testifying that as they have stepped out and cared for sick and isolated people in their communities, they have known the Lord's protection.