



吴乃力牧师 (博士)

华人年议会会长

Rev (Dr) Gregory Goh Nai Lat

President, Chinese Annual Conference

心灵相簿

The President's Gallery

# 冠状病毒 带来的契机

## COVID-19 Moments and Reflections

在我们人生众计划中，无论是个人生命成长的目标、家庭经济的计划、事业的发展、退休的规划等，相信我们都没有把大瘟疫放在其中。虽然我们很多人没有经历过两次世界大战，却“有幸”经历世界卫生组织所宣布的2019冠状病毒大流行！

冠状病毒带给世界很多困境，许多人因此丧失性命，但也让繁忙的世界突然停顿下来。我想之前没有人会料想到它的发生竟可如此迅速与严重，几乎让全世界停了下来。

911刚发生时，为了寻找其他被劫的飞机，美国航空局命令所有在其境内的飞机降落并停止起飞，为要寻找被劫的飞机。2019冠状病毒疫情竟然在短短的一个多月，让世界所有的飞机停飞！

安息日与安息年是上帝颁布给世人的命令，是为了人类和居住在地球上万物的福利。上帝创造白天和黑夜、四季节期，让万物有作息的规律，使大地生生不息。今天当我们一直强调持续性 (Sustainability)，其实圣经不早就告诉我们了吗？当我们违背上帝的命令和祂所创造的大自然规律时，灭亡便是自然的后果。

人不是上帝，是有限的，并要承认那无限的存在。冠状病毒让我们在毫无防备的情况下停顿下来。许多公司、工厂停工，活动取消，大家都必须留在家中，这给你带来什么影响呢？或许你会说你依然忙碌，甚至更忙，因为网络的方便使你得继续不停地工作。是的，我完全同意！但这更突显出世界的脆弱和无奈——我们不是自己的主宰，我们停不下来。

我喜欢“阻断措施”这名称。阻断是为了之后可以重新启动，不再受困！若我们卫理信徒可以把这时期化为属灵生命的“阻断措施”，检视自己的灵命，看看有哪些“病毒”需要被铲除（它可能是不讨上帝喜悦的习惯，或对上帝国度事奉的冷淡等等）。这段时期可以是一个圣化过程，洁净我们的生命，成为上帝要塑造门徒的契机。

冠状病毒也逼使我们改变工作方式以及处理事务的方法。过去，我们不愿意接受电子付款，电子奉献，现在大家都不得不接受这些新的模式、新的做事方法。我们总是喜欢照旧，因为这是我们熟悉的，也让我们觉得稳妥。但疫情把我们所习惯的模式切断，逼使我们去探索和尝试新的途径，这未尝不是一件好事。



让我们把握这时机，面对这全新的世界（疫情前后的世界将迥然不同），用心思考我们的事工模式。我们有否达到预期的目标？是否有其他的方法可以帮助我们取得更好的效果？我深感冠状病毒疫情为我们提供了一个休止符，让我们去反思、祷告，并寻求上帝的引导。

亲爱的弟兄姐妹，让我们在这段时期学习安静，聆听自己内心的声音。圣灵要引导你听见上帝对你的呼唤。“我们晓得万事都互相效力，叫爱上帝的人得益处，就是按祂旨意被召的人。”（罗马书 8:28）

When we make plans for our life, whether it be setting personal goals for growth, planning your family's finances, developing your career, or making plans for your retirement, none of us could have fathomed planning for a global pandemic. Not many of us would have experienced two World Wars. Yet, we now have the "privilege" of experiencing an unprecedented global crisis, a historical milestone which the World Health Organisation has declared as a global pandemic - the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The pandemic brought much catastrophe to everyone around the world. Many lives were lost. The world that was once busy has been brought to a standstill. I believe no one had anticipated the impact of the virus to have been so swift and so extensive, breaking the world down, and grinding it to a halt.

When the September 11 (911) terrorist attacks happened, the US Federal Aviation Authority ordered a closure of the American airspace. All flights were grounded so as to allow for a search for flights that may have been hijacked by the terrorists. In comparison, the COVID-19 pandemic was able to ground all flights around the world within just a month!

Observing Sabbath Day and Sabbatical Year is a command given by God to mankind, in order to preserve the welfare of mankind and all other creation on this earth. God created day and night. He gave us the four seasons, allowing all creation to have a balanced work-rest rhythm. This allowed the land to thrive on its own. This is the "Sustainability" we speak so much of today. This has, in fact, been the same message from Scripture. When we disobey God's command for Sabbath and His law of nature, we can only expect destruction as the natural consequence.

Humans are not God, humans have limitations, but we also need to acknowledge that there are limitless possibilities. The pandemic brought all businesses to an unprecedented standstill, many

companies and factories had to stop operation, events were cancelled and everyone had to stay at home. What are your reflections during this global pandemic? Perhaps you find yourself busier than before. The convenience of internet access may have meant you are compelled to work non-stop. I agree with this observation. Yet this only makes it more stark at how fragile and helpless our world has become, where we are not masters over our own lives, and are not able to step-off the treadmill.

I like the term "Circuit Breaker". We "break the circuit" in order to reboot and restart our operations, no longer stuck in our old ways. Hopefully, Methodists can also use this period as a "Circuit Breaker" for our Spiritual Life, to conduct a self-examination, uproot any "viruses" from our lives (these could be habits and lifestyles that are not pleasing to God; backsliding in your faith and losing your zeal for God's kingdom, amongst others). Let this be a period of spiritual renewal, sanctifying our lives, leading us to become the disciple that God had moulded us to be.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also transformed our work and the way we get things done. In the past, we resisted using digital means such as online payments or online offering. Today we are compelled to accept new modus operandi. We may have been fond of sticking to old methods, things that are familiar and stable. However, this pandemic has broken our familiar structures, forcing us to uncover and try new methods. This is not necessarily a bad thing.

Let us seize this opportunity, and face this new world (for the post-COVID-19 world will indeed, not be the same) and look deeply at our various ministries. Have we attained the goals we set out to serve? Are there more novel methods that may achieve better results? I do feel that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented a pause in time, allowing us time to reflect, pray, and seek God's leading.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us learn to be still during this period, listen to the inner voice within us, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in hearing God's calling for you. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

会长摄于2020年4月新加坡，碧山-宏茂桥公园。

Photo taken by President at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Singapore, April 2020.