

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

Genesis 50:20

“从前你们是要加害于我，但上帝有祂的美意，祂借此保全许多人的性命，正如今日的光景。”

创世记 50:20

Hi friends,

Recently, we've been reminded of Joseph's story.

Joseph was betrayed by people he trusted, and he lost his freedom for a long time. He must have experienced all the hard emotions – confusion, grief, depression, and despair.

In his time of waiting, God was faithful. He never left Joseph's side and even gave him the skills and opportunities he needed to effectively serve and bless the people around him.

Finally, at the end of his long and difficult journey, he was able to say with confidence: **"...God intended it all for good."**

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On March 16, our apartment complex entered a lockdown phase due to a few positive COVID cases detected in one of the buildings. For the next few weeks, case counts all around the city increased rapidly. Then, in the evening of March 27 – a Sunday – the government suddenly announced a city-wide lockdown of all residents, beginning the following morning for the east side of the city (where we live), followed by the western side of the city four days later. Lots of chaos ensued, and perhaps you have already seen or heard some of the reports. We have heard so many sad and tragic stories.

On our [private Facebook group](#) in early April, we shared the following prayer request:

"As is always the case, people with limited resources, the elderly, people with serious health issues, and those who were already living on the margins (or homeless) are getting hit the hardest now. You can say a prayer for these folks - that God would guard and protect them, and that the community could come together to care for them."

God answered this prayer and has given us the joy of witnessing and participating in some of the good work He is doing during this challenging time. With encouragement and support from our congregation's leaders, a group of volunteers organized in mid-April for the purpose of seeking out and ordering groceries for the homeless, migrants, elderly people, and others who needed food relief. We are also working with our congregation's local non-profit partners to provide 'emergency grant' funding to serve people in need around the city. It has been so encouraging to see the Body of JC come together with a focus on serving others.

Here is a [video](#) created by one of our dear sisters in JC, in which you can see a selection of photos, videos, and social media posts shared by many of the more than 200 people that our congregation's volunteer group has been able to assist with food relief. Everyone involved has been so grateful and blessed by the support of this group.



For our own family, we just passed Day 60 (and COVID test #56) of our lockdown adventure on Sunday, May 15. In a very welcome change, our apartment complex was downgraded from a "Lockdown" area to a "Controlled" area that day, meaning we are now (finally!) free to leave our apartment, go

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for walks, and let the kids play outside. However, we are not yet free to leave the apartment complex – no one in, no one out (except for medical emergencies).

If you're interested, you can see more updates from our family's experience at this [video here](#) and from several posts at the aforementioned [private Facebook group](#) (please join!).



Getting all dressed up for the first city-wide COVID testing in April

Although it's only been 2 months compared to a long 20 years for Joseph, we and many others in our city are now able to better identify with the experiences and emotions he faced.

Ultimately, though, we know that Joseph's story is just a shadow of THE story of the One in whom every story finds its true fulfillment.

He was also betrayed. He endured greater isolation and suffering than we can even begin to understand. He faced all the same hard emotions as we have, and more. And yet – in and through His pain – He served, He blessed, He forgave, and He saved.

Hebrews 4 reminds us:

"...we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

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In the end, no matter what we will face in this life, we know that our Redeemer lives. And so, like Joseph, we are confident to say:

**"The Enemy intended to harm us,
but God intended it all for good."**

PRAYER POINTS

- For our city and for this country, including the leaders and decision-makers. Too many prayers to say... but He knows (Romans 8:26-28).
- For our congregation and for the larger Body of JC here, that we would have wisdom for how best to serve.
- This experience has been hard on the kids, especially John. Pray for good mental health and perseverance as we wait for reunions with friends, classmates, & teachers.
- Thank Him that our family's COVID test results have remained negative, and we have been able to avoid the 'COVID camps' (central quarantine facilities).
- For our good friends M, J, & K – currently staying in one of these quarantine facilities.
- Thank Him for using Josh for a recent message to our congregation on Hebrews 9 in early April, a very anxious and stressful time for many people here. Being reminded of the true freedom and lasting inheritance we have in JC was a gift for us all.
- For faith and courage for all our CWEF team members as they go about the work God has called them to do.
- As always, please join us in praying for the gift of faith for Coco's parents and family members, and for their physical and mental well-being.
- Finally, for Coco and Josh – pray for an abundance of faith, hope, and love from the Lord and for each other.

*In His Love,
Josh & Coco, John & Sophie*

Would you join us by committing to support the work God is doing here with your regular prayers and gifts?

We currently have 39 partners, and **we hope to reach 50**. Click [here](#) to join us as we join JC on his mission. Thank you!