



2019年底新冠肺炎的疫情突然發生，當時仍在境外的我不知其嚴重性，仍然準備2020年初寒假期中進入植苗地區服事，慢慢的傳出的消息越來越多，終於緊急撤離返美，後來各地就緊急封城的狀況出現了。

返美後繼續與植苗地區的教會同工聯繫，得知即使偏遠山區的道路也全部封閉，不準外人進入，也不允許教堂的聚會，中小學校也停止上課，因此2020上半年的植苗活動全部暫停，只有植苗大學生的資助仍透過網上溝通與關懷。

到了2020年4月開始，美國疫情開始嚴重，植苗地區反倒是慢慢緩和下來，但是國境的管制仍然沒開放。暑假期間的兒童教育補助發放，就協調由當地的植苗大學生幫忙處理相關的工作，如要寄給資助人的兒童成長資料相片等，當地同

工又不敢與外界有關連，因此仍需輾轉寄出，這種情況至今（2021年底）仍然如此，尚未看到國境解除管制的消息。

新宗教管理條例的限制，就讓許多的短宣隊無法進入植苗地區，新冠肺炎的疫情也更限制了個別的服務機會，這期中也發生了其他的嚴重災情，有許多的弟兄姐妹們與我聯繫，表達他們雖無法再組短宣隊去植苗區，但是卻仍然關心植苗地區的現況。

最特別的是有一間教會主動的表達他們的感恩心聲：『因為經由各種不同的努力與政府的協助，嘗試種植較高的經濟作物，這幾年葡萄豐收，收入上改善許多，植苗兒童家庭生活都很好了，因此就不再領收植苗對他們的資助。感謝資助者一直以來的愛心幫助，感謝你們的辛勞付出！上帝祝福！』。這也是我們的期待，藉由弟兄姐妹們長期的關懷有需要的貧困兒童，初期許多讀小學的兒童，現在都已經是高中，甚至大學畢業了。

雖然外界有許多的變化，但感謝神的恩典！一切都仍然在祂的掌握之中，期望疫情能早日平息，如此就能再見到各地的植苗兒童，代表許多資助人去關心他們，更與弟兄姐妹們分享，見證神奇妙的恩典！





Toward the end of 2019, Covid-19 came suddenly. At the time, I was outside of the States and was not aware of the severity of the epidemic. We were planning for our annual Seedling Camp for the Winter break. The news of the Covid spread started to trickle in and we decided to leave immediately. Shortly after we left, emergency locked downs of cities and regions became more common.

After we came back to the States, we tried to make contact with our local churches and co-workers and found out that roads in and out of even the remotest places have been closed. No one was permitted to get into the area. Church gatherings were prohibited, all schools were closed. For the first part of the year, all activities for the Seedling Ministry had stopped. Only the College financial aids and caring remained open through our on-line communication.

By April 2020, the situation in the U.S. became quite severe while the Seedling Ministry locations had improved. However, the restrictions mandated by the officials were still in place. The summer school for children were coordinated and led by our college students. Our usual updates and news of the children who received financial support had been a challenge. The local co-workers had to be more cautious in their direct communication with those who are



“outsiders”. At times they have to utilize indirect channels of communication which could cause some delays. The situation continues the end of 2021. We have not heard the restriction would be relaxed any time soon.

Because of the recent new policies on the restriction of religious activities, many short term mission teams have not been able to visit our Seedling Ministry locales. In addition, the limitation of travel because of COVID have further restricted our contact and the opportunity to serve our churches even though there were other crisis and disaster we are aware of. Many brothers and sisters told us that even though they were not able to organize short term mission to visit this year they continue to care about our Seedling ministry.

There is a special heartfelt gratitude from one of our churches that we want to share here. “Due to our hard work and assistance from the government, for the last few years we were able to plant some economically more efficient products. In the last few years, we have some great harvest. Therefore, with the improved income of the families we are no longer in need of financial assistance from the Seedlings Ministry. We are thankful for your financial support and love in the past. May God bless your hard work.” This is indeed our hope and prayer for the families. Because the long term financial support of brothers and sisters for the needy children, they were able to attend elementary school in the beginning of our ministry. Many of these children have gone on to attend high school and some have graduated from college.

Although there are many changes in the outside world but thanks be to our God, who holds tomorrow and He reigns. We pray that the pandemic situation will be under control soon so we may again visit the children and to show them your love and support in person. We hope to again share with you what they have done and be witnesses to God’s grace and blessings.

