A Note of Encouragement from the Elders

Dear CBC Friends,

'Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path' (Ps 119:105) has been the testimony of God's people through generations. No doubt each of us has turned to different parts of God's word for help over recent months and found just what we have needed during this time of COVID 19.

Perhaps, with Joseph, you've understood that what is intended for harm in our broken world, our sovereign God intends for good (Genesis 50:20). Perhaps you've identified with Daniel in exile as he experienced the end of his world but then glimpsed God's eternal kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14). Perhaps you've come to Jesus, been touched by His compassion for suffering humanity and rejoiced anew in His victory over sin and death. Perhaps you've become expectant with Paul as you've seen new opportunities for God's unstoppable gospel to spread.

God, in His wisdom, has a different lesson and purpose for each of us during this crisis. May He continue to speak to us through His word.

We recognise this has been a hard time for many in our church. We have missed the opportunity to fellowship with you all in person. One of the Puritans, Richard Sibbes, said this 'Whatever God takes away, He never takes away – Himself'. Our hope for you is the priceless blessing of knowing Jesus as your treasure.

As elders, we are thankful for the pastoral care service and the work with technology that many in our church have willingly undertaken. We appreciate the diligence of Ian Read and the gracious way in which Steve, Nick, David, Dan and Emma, along with Karon and Kim, have led and ministered through the challenges the church has faced.

We pray that each member of our church family will know the sufficiency of God's grace in their specific circumstances and we trust that God will be our faithful guide into the future for His own glory.

Yours in Christ,

Karl Hochstetter, Betty Moore, Patsy Lees, Alan Worsley and Jason Xiao