

A Case for Love and Mercy in the Midst of the Pandemic

疫情中关爱与怜悯事工的方案

Who isn't talking about COVID-19 these days? The conversation is unfortunately dominated by loud, powerful voices from the ratings-driven cable news outlets, many engaged in finger-pointing and blame assignment. Some call the virus by names that are ethnically-charged and divisive, in an attempt, perhaps, to buoy our own national and personal "self-image," sadly at the detriment of our neighbors – all of them created in God's image and loved by Him.

眼下有谁不谈论“新冠病毒” (COVID-

19) ? 不幸的是, 言论是由高收视率的有线新闻媒体的聒噪之音主导的, 很多人都在甩锅和责备。有些人使用带有种族歧视色彩的、具有分裂性的名子来命名这个病毒, 或试图维护本民族的形象或“个人形象”, 但可悲的是, 它正伤害着我们的邻舍 ---- 他们也是按照上帝的形象受造的, 也蒙得上帝的珍爱。

But there is another softer voice, familiar to the ear of the Christian: God's Holy Spirit calling us to have mercy on those in need during this challenging time when many are more aware than ever in their lifetime of both their physical and spiritual needs. Mercy never seeks to establish blame, but instead comes to the aid of those in need simply because they are in need, and because Christ exhorted us to love others as we love ourselves. The Good Samaritan didn't question the man by the side of the road to determine his "worthiness." He simply helped him because he was in need.

但是, 还存在另一种柔和的声音, 在基督徒耳畔中熟悉的声音: 上帝的圣灵在呼召我们, 以怜悯之心善待那些有需要的人。在这个充满挑战的时刻, 很多人一生都没有像现在这样意识到自己在物质上和精神上的需求。怜悯从来不是寻求责备, 而单单是为帮助有需要的人, 单单因为他们有需求, 更是因为基督曾劝勉我们要爱邻如己。“好撒玛利亚人”并没有质疑路边的人“值不值得救”。他帮助了他, 单单是因为他有需求。

Four months ago, ministry leaders among ethnic minorities within the PCA's Mission to North America (MNA) formed a body now known as the Ethnos Coalition. We have collaborated to provide insights and practical suggestions for ministering love and mercy to our neighbors during this crisis, particularly to those ethnic minorities who may be especially vulnerable at this time.

四个月前, “美国长老会” (PCA) 的“北美事工团” (MNA) 中从事少数族裔事工的一些带领人, 组建了一个机构, 称为“各族联盟”。我们共同合作, 分享我们的看见和实用的建议, 通过关爱与怜悯事工, 善待这场危机中的邻舍, 特别是那些在此时此刻可能特别脆弱的少数族裔。

Over the years, many of our churches have ministered to ethnic minorities through outreach programs such as ESL and after-school tutoring, and through mercy ministry such as food pantries and clothing closets. Relationships of love and trust have been nurtured through such interactions. Ethnic minorities and other vulnerable persons in our communities need the church to demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways now more than ever. Providentially, many churches can now find new ways to serve those who are already in their outreach relational circles, and through them to other vulnerable members of our communities.

多年以来, 很多教会都有少数族裔的外展事工, 比如, 第二外语课堂 (ESL), 课后辅导课堂 (after-school tutoring)。教会还有怜悯事工, 比如, 食品储藏柜, 衣物橱柜。通过这种互动, 培养出关爱与信任的关系。社区内的少数族裔和其他弱势群体, 现在比任何时候都需要教会以实际行动表达他们的基督之爱。很多教会已经找到了新的方法, 为那些已经出现在他们外展事工里的群体提供服务, 并通过他们继续为社区中其他的弱势家庭提供服务。

***Our Asian American neighbors are being singled out
被排除在外的亚裔美国人邻舍***

Please love our Asian American neighbors. This is clearly required of all of God's children. Loving our Asian American neighbors in a time of hate-driven and fear-filled racism today is more critical than ever. Many of our Asian American neighbors are in need of our love and support right now.

请关爱我们的亚裔美国人邻舍。很显然，这是对所有上帝儿女的要求。在这个拉仇恨、蓄恐惧的种族主义时期，以爱心善待我们的亚裔美国人邻舍，显得比任何时候都更为重要。很多亚裔美国人邻舍都需要我们的关爱与支持，就在此时此刻。

What exactly does the Gospel neighboring look like for our Asian American neighbors, as well as for brothers and sisters in these COVID-19 times?

在新冠病毒（COVID-19）期间，与亚裔美国人和其他弟兄、姊妹作福音邻舍到底是什么样子？

For some it might be in the form of a passive love that prays for those who are suffering as a result of racism. For others passively loving our Asian American neighbors might mean spending more time in meditation, self-reflection, and introspection, to consider why anti-Asian or xenophobic comments have not bothered you, why you find racist jokes like Kung Flu and other cruel comments amusing and/or harmless.

有人认为，作福音邻舍应该是一种被动的关爱，要为那些因种族主义而受苦的人祈祷。另一些人认为，被动地关爱亚裔美国人邻舍，应该是花更多的时间做灵修、自我反思和内省，认真思考面对反亚裔、或排斥亚裔的评论，你为什么不在心里去？听到“功夫流感”（Kung Flu）之类的种族主义讥笑和其它仇外的评论，你为什么觉得很风趣和/或无伤大雅。

For some, Gospel neighboring is more active and takes the form of financial support of local Asian American restaurants and other businesses affected by Anti-Asian American racism. Active Gospel neighboring might also include courageously stepping in to intervene when racial bullying and violence occurs in person or online, teaching our children how to love Asian American friends by refraining from speaking negatively about, joking about, or teasing Asian American peers online or on social media, or by being complicit in their silence by allowing it to occur from others. Loving our Asian American neighbors will also mean lovingly speaking up against others who continue to express racist comments toward your Asian American neighbors, even when sometimes, oftentimes, the “others” might just be your own family, friends, congregation members, and church leaders.

还有一些人认为，作福音邻舍应该是积极的，要采用财物支持的形式，帮助那些因“反亚裔美国人”种族主义影响的当地亚裔餐馆和生意。作积极的福音邻舍还包括，要勇敢地介入、干预那些面对面的、或网络上的种族欺凌和暴力。还要引导我们的孩子，关爱亚裔美国人朋友，阻止孩子们在网络上或社交媒体上对他们的负面评价、嬉笑或取笑他们亚裔美国人伙伴，或其他人做这样的事，他们保持沉默，形如同谋。关爱亚裔美国人邻舍还意味着，以爱的方式为他们大声疾呼，对抗那些不住地向他们发表种族主义言论的人，尽管有的时候，“那些人”往往就是你的家人、朋友、会众成员和教会领袖。

After the Black Death of 1527, Martin Luther addressed the responsibilities of ordinary citizens during a previous period of contagion in his letter “Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague.” On the one hand, he did not encourage Christians to expose themselves recklessly, while at the same time he challenged them to practice a love for neighbor, born out of their love for God. (Mark 10:45)

1527年黑死病爆发后，马丁·路德（Martin Luther）在他的“基督徒是否可能逃离致命瘟疫”一信中提到，在上一次传染病时期“普通民众的责任”。一方面，他不鼓励基督徒不顾一切地暴露自己；同时，他也挑战基督徒要切实实际地操练对邻舍的爱，因为这是他们对上帝的爱。（《马可福音》10:45）

Suggested actions which do not involve reckless danger but do require obedient sacrifice
这些建议不是主张冒无畏之险，而是要求顺服的牺牲

It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. (BCO 9-2). We encourage diaconates to proactively and practically minister to those in and out of their local church by:

教会执事的职责是服侍有需要的人、患病的人、无助的人，及陷入窘迫的人。他们的职责还包括在教会成员中开发慷慨的恩惠，设计出有效的方法，收集各种恩赐，分配到被关爱的对象手里 (BCO 9-2)。我们鼓励执事们通过前瞻性的、切合实际的方式，服侍那些出入所在地方教会的人们：

1. Meeting basic needs

- Collect food, over the counter medications, clothing, household supplies, etc. so those in need can meet their basic needs.
- Deliver or set up pick up points or drive-throughs for families in need to get supplies.
- Purchase grocery store gift cards and distribute as needed.

1. 满足基本的需求

- 收集食物、无处方药品、衣物、家庭用具等，让有需要的人满足基本的需求。
- 送货上门，或建立取货点或快速通道，为这些家庭提供日用品。
- 购买食品店的购物卡，按需求派送给他们。

2. Helping provide shelter

- Provide stipends so low wage workers who are out of work can pay for rent, utilities and other basic needs.
- Collect items that will help keep the children of those who are in need stay occupied while they are at home (crafts, toys, books, games, etc.).
- Determine need and then collect electronics such as laptops, tablets, phones, etc. so those in need can stay connected.
- The internet is the lifeline for families, consider paying for internet service for families in need, particularly those working from home or with children whose lessons are now exclusively online.

2. 帮助提供临时住处

- 提供金钱补贴，帮助失业的低薪小时工，支付房租、水电、和其它基本需要。
- 收集儿童用品，帮助留守在家的孩子们有事可做（工艺品、玩具、书籍、游戏等等）
- 体察他们的需要，收集电子用品，如笔记本电脑、平板电脑、电话等，使他们与外界保持联系。

对家庭而言，网络是生命线。要考虑某些家庭是否需要支付网络费用，尤其是那些需要在家工作、或有孩子需要上网学习的家庭。

3. Promoting outreach

- Compile a list of all the people you've ministered to through your outreach and mercy ministry and contact them to find out what their most critical current needs are.
- Ask those in your congregation who have already built trust with ethnic minorities (leaders of ethnic congregations that meet in your building, ESL teachers, etc.) what specific needs they are aware of among those they serve, and how they suggest your congregation might best help.
- Find ways to build on these already existing relationships: Can you help ESL teachers with technology so that classes can continue online? Can they invite their students to watch your online worship service, and perhaps do a vocabulary lesson built around the sermon concepts? Can you have the sermon translated into the primary languages of the ESL students? Can the ESL teachers do a Q and A with those students that watch the worship service? Can an ESL prayer group meet online, with the pastor as a participant, using simple vocabulary and avoiding "insider" language?
- Invite church families or small groups to "adopt" a family in need, stay in touch with them and deliver the items they need.

- Create a church call in center for people who are scared, worried, getting angry with their family, etc. Staff a phone center where people can receive prayer and counsel.

3. 推动外展事工

把外展事工和怜悯事工中得到过服务的所有人拉个清单，主动与他们联系，找到他们当前最关键的需求。

在会众中，有些人已经与少数族裔群体建立了信任关系（少数族裔群体中的领头人，还有第二外语课堂（ESL）的老师等），

问问他们是否注意到这个群体中有哪些具体的需求，他们的建议是什么。这样教会的帮助能帮到点子上。

寻找各种方法，发展现有的关系：是否可以给第二外语课堂（ESL）提供技术帮助，让课程可以在网上继续进行？是否可以邀请学生们一同观看网上崇拜活动，是否可以根

据证道内容，设计一节词汇课？否可以把证道内容翻译成这些学生的母语？是否可以与观看过崇拜活动的学生进行问答对话？外语课祷告小组是否可以在网上聚会，并邀请牧师参加，使用简单的词汇，避免使用“行话”语言？—邀请教会家庭或各小组“收养”需要帮助的家庭，与他们保持联系，并送给他们所需的物品。

设立一个教会电话，配制电话值班人员，为他们祷告，并提供辅导。凡受到惊吓的、有担忧的、对家人发怒的人，都可以打电话进来。

4. Practicing being part of a connectional church

- Many PCA churches are not located in poor and marginalized communities.
- The Ethnos Coalition members represent over 100 churches ministering to those in deep distress from this pandemic. Contact any of the Ethnos Coalition members and they will help you connect with diaconates serving those who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

4. 行动起来，成为教会联合的一员

- 很多“美国长老会”（PCA）的教会并不在贫穷的和被边缘化的社区里。
- “各族联盟”的成员代表着100多个教会，向深陷疫情困境的群体做事工。

请与“各族联盟”的成员联系，他们会帮助你联系正在做这项事工的执事们，他们正在帮助那些因疫情失去生活平衡的群体。

Connecting with ethnic minorities in our communities in ways they will understand **以他们可以理解的方式，与社区内的少数族裔建立关系**

Multilingual virus information: Refugees and other immigrants and internationals in our communities whose primary language is other than English may not have received even the most basic reliable COVID-19 information in their first language.

提供多种语言有关病毒的信息：社区内的非英语母语的难民、移民、和国际人士，很可能无法获得以他们的母语书写的关于“新冠病毒”（COVID-19）的最基本的可靠信息。

Thanks to Rachael Sloan of Restoring Hope Roanoke (and an ESL trainer!) for collating links to reliable coronavirus print and video resources in dozens of languages in one document: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wud3acDpTQ-QG91Uoy5zMyw_UGsWNTsT

感谢来自“Restoring Hope Roanoke”的雷切尔·斯隆 (Rachael Sloan) (也是第二外语培训老师!) 把关于“新冠病毒”(COVID-19) 的可靠的资料和视频, 用多种语言整理出来, 放在同一个文件里:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wud3acDpTQ-QG91Uoy5zMyw_UGsWNTsT

Perhaps some of your members work in health care? Or serve on local or state government or hospital or clinic boards? They might be grateful to have these linguistically targeted resources to disperse accurate information to some of the most vulnerable in your community.

或许你们教会成员中就有做保健工作的, 或者在地方政府、州政府、医院或者诊所工作的。他们一定很感激, 获得这些相关语种的信息材料, 分发给社区内最弱勢的群体。

A pastor of Christ the King PCA in Philadelphia who ministers to Brazilians has worked with a graphic artist to produce Portuguese COVID-19 handouts on how to protect oneself and others and is also posting short virus updates in Portuguese with Biblical messages of hope several times a week on his YouTube channel.

费城的Christ the King

PCA教会一位牧师, 他的事工对象是巴西裔群体。他与一位画家共同编写了葡萄牙语的“新冠病毒”(COVID-19) 自我保护手册。与此同时, 还在油管频道(YouTube)上, 每周数次用葡萄牙语更新有关病毒的最新情况, 并传达《圣经》关于盼望的信息。

Spiritual resources in other languages: Everyone is experiencing the disruption of all that once seemed dependable. Speakers of other languages in your community are especially hungry for eternal spiritual truths. Here is a short list of websites with hopeful content:

其他语种的属灵资源: 每个人都在经历着纷扰, 曾经看似可依赖的一切都被打乱了。社区里说外语的人群, 尤其渴求永恒的属灵真理。下面是一组有关盼望内容的网站:

- The Bible Project provides Biblical concepts in multiple languages: <https://bibleproject.com/languages/>
- The Jesus Film Project allows anyone to watch any of a dozen or more Biblical movies in any one of 192 languages, for free: <https://www.jesusteam.org/watch.html>
- This new website gathers Biblical resources in 2,500 languages. Find the language, dialect you want, then choose something to share with those you know who speak that language: https://scriptureearth.org/00i-Scripture_Index.php
- “圣经工程”提供了用多种语言解释的圣经概念: <https://bibleproject.com/languages/>
- “耶稣电影工程”免费提供多达192种语言的圣经电影, 有一打的电影供选择观看: <https://www.jesusteam.org/watch.html>
- 这个全新网站收集了2500种语言的圣经资源。可以按照自己需要的语言或方言, 选择并分享给说那种语言的人: https://scriptureearth.org/00i-Scripture_Index.php

Are you a pastor of a church that worships in a language other than English now doing your services or perhaps short videos in that language online, that could be shared with others? Consider posting them on Facebook or YouTube videos so that their reach can be multiplied as many are spending hours on their phones or tablets, searching for meaningful content.

你是用非英语语言在网上讲道的牧师吗? 或用这种语言制作短视频挂在网上, 与他人分享? 请考虑使用脸书 (Facebook) 或油管 (YouTube) 平台, 它可以让你传播的内容翻倍, 因为有很多人在用手机或平板搜索着有意义的内容。

What spiritual resources in other languages might it be possible for you to produce at this time, either on your own or through collaboration with other ethnic churches? This could be a real comfort and encouragement to refugees,

immigrants and internationals who are suffering deeply during the pandemic. We'd love to hear about what you've done and share it with others who could benefit!

在这个时期，你用非英语语言能制作什么样的属灵资源，无论是独自制作或与他人协作？这对疫情里受到很大影响的难民、移民以及国际人士来说，都是实实在在的安慰和鼓励。我们期待着听到你制作的项目，并分享给他人，让更多的人受益。

It is no accident that refugees, immigrants and other internationals are present in our communities. It is part of God's plan to draw them to Himself, as Acts 17:26 and 27 makes clear. **“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.”**

难民、移民以及国际人士出现在我们的社区内不是个意外。这是上帝计划的一部分，为要把他们引向祂自己。正如《使徒行传》第17章26-

27节明确地说，“祂从一人造出万族，居住在全地面上，并且预先定准他们的年限和所住的疆界，为要使他们寻求神，或者可以揣摩而找到祂，其实祂离我们各人都不远。”

Every believer is part of God's plan to do that! And many are already our brothers and sisters in Christ! God works powerfully in the midst of brokenness. Will we allow Him to work through us to address the physical and spiritual well-being of our neighbors?

每个信徒都是上帝计划实施的一部分！很多人已经是我们在基督里的弟兄和姊妹了！上帝是在破碎当中做工，尽显大能。我们是否允许祂籍着我们做工，保守我们的邻舍在肉体 and 灵里的富足？

It is time to be bold and honest. It is time to love our neighbors and be the salt and light of the world. For such a time as this...

表现出勇敢和诚实的时候到了。关爱我们的邻舍，在世上作光作盐的时候到了。在这样的时刻... ..

It is our prayer that the suggestions in this document will inspire and equip you to act lovingly and mercifully to ALL of your neighbors. **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”** (Matthew 5:7)

我们的祷告是，这份文件提出的建议意在鼓舞和装备你们，用爱心与怜悯去善待你们所有的邻舍。“怜悯人的人有福了！因为他们必蒙怜悯。”(《马太福音》 5:7)

The Ethnos Coalition invites you to reach out to any of them with specific questions or comments. It is our desire to help you love your neighbor effectively. Our contact information is available on the Mission to North America website at <https://pcamna.org/>

“各族联盟”(The Ethnos

Coalition)邀请你们积极地接触那些带着具体问题与评论的任何人。我们的愿望是帮助你们有效地关爱自己的邻舍。我们的联系方式刊登在“北美宣教团”(MNA)网站上：<https://pcamna.org/>

The Ethnos Coalition Ministry Coordinators & Directors collaborated on this article:

参与此文合作的“各族联盟”事工人员：

Hernando Sáenz – Hispanic Ministries, (Chairman, Ethnos Coalition)

埃尔南多·塞恩斯 (Hernando Sáenz) – 西班牙语族事工，“各族联盟”主席 (Hispanic Ministries, Chairman of Ethnos Coalition)

Alex Jun – Korean American Leadership Initiative

亚历克斯·俊 (Alex Jun) – 韩裔美国人领导力启动 (Korean American Leadership Initiative)

Bill Sim – Korean Ministries

比尔·辛 (Bill Sim) – 韩裔事工 (Korean Ministries)

Darcy Cairns – Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches

达西·凯雷斯 (Darcy Cairns) – 葡萄牙语教会网络 (Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches)

Dony St. Germain – Haitian American Ministries

多尼·圣·日耳曼 (Dony St. Germain) – 海蒂裔美国人事工 (Haitian American Ministries)

Pat Hatch- Refugee and Immigrant Ministries

帕特·哈奇 (Pat Hatch) – 难民与移民事工 (Refugee and Immigrant Ministries)

Randy Nabors – Urban and Mercy Ministries

兰迪·纳伯斯 (Randy Nabors) – 都市怜悯事工 (Urban and Mercy Ministries)

Wy Plummer – African American Ministries

威·普拉姆 (Wy Plummer) – 非裔美国人事工 (African American Ministries)

Jeb Bland – African American/First Nations Ministries (editor of this document)

杰布·布兰德 (Jeb Bland) – 非裔美国人事工 (本文件编辑) (Native American/First Nations Ministries) (editor of this document)

Chinese Translation by Hannah Min, Chris Zang; Proofread by Jingyu Wang

翻译：哈拿·闵，克里斯·臧；校对：静瑜·王