

Dear friends,

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

Once again those of us in health care are at the frontline of a major health challenge. Again, the long hours, constantly updated circumstances, and though we are the ones who have to follow the strictest protective protocols, there is no running away from the fact that many of us are the ones closest to those who are ill. We remember the fatalities of the SARS epidemic, and the ultimate price paid by some of our colleagues in Wuhan. Surely this is at the back of our minds, when we have the energy and time to think. We have to decide how we should live to minimise risk and fear for those closest to us. This is a challenging time. A few things to bear in mind.

First, whether we fully realised it or not, we were called into medicine for such a time like this. We are Christ's healing representatives to bring healing and comfort to those afflicted and their loved ones. We do so with all the compassion and competence we can. It is a sacrificial service with all the attendant dangers. It is one way we carry our cross as we follow Jesus.

Second, we should be careful to take all protective measures but we must also remember that our lives are in God's hands. While we minister in obedience to His call, we can trust Him to care for us. He is the one who decides when it is time for us to go home to Him. This is always true, virus outbreak or not.

Thirdly we must do our part to maintain our lives. We must be disciplined to care for ourselves holistically: physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially --- we must ensure that we practice adequate health care. This may be extra challenging since our routines are topsy turvy. But this is critical. We do not know how long this outbreak will threaten. We need to be prepared for the long haul and that means living a day at a time, doing what we need to do to keep healthy.

The toughest challenge may be the fact that some members of the public may shun us because they fear that they may get infected if they get close to us. This is perhaps the most painful blow, being rejected by the very ones we have been called to care for. This is surely cause for anger yet we remember that in this too, we are experiencing what our Lord experienced. No, life in a fallen world is not fair but the Lord will remember what you have done and had to go through and He will reward/recompense you at the proper time.

So my dear brothers and sisters, let us pray for one another and encourage one another as we serve Him in these trying times. Let us count it a privilege to be healers in the name of the Healer.

Your brother,

SooInn

Chaplain,
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