

June 26/27, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk: Rev. Collins Kung

Be prepared for danger in times of peace

Without knowing it, I have lived in Richmond for 30 years, and the townhouse that I live in is more than 30 years old. In the past 5 years, my house has had several water pipe leaks. Fortunately, God blessed us and we found out in time so that there was no damage of our properties, and the Strata Management Company also repaired it for us. In fact, many units of our townhouse complex have the same problem. It is because the water pipes used to build the house at that time were "grey pipes", which would break easily over the years and it does not meet the current building codes. There are still some water pipes in my house hidden underground. The situation is like a time bomb. I don't know when it will burst and cause damages.

Praise God, in the last year's Owners General Meeting, we passed a resolution to replace the water pipes of all units, and all the owners needed to contribute a special levy for the repair. Although it costs a lot of money, it solves the problem once and for all. Unlike in the past, the problem was only addressed in a piecemeal manner.

At the end of April this year, we received a notice that the water pipe replacement project will begin in May, and I saw some units have begun the work gradually. I thought the management company would notify me in advance. However, on Tuesday May 18 morning, when I was preparing my devotion sharing for the pastoral staff meeting on that day, I suddenly heard the sound of an electric drill coming from my neighbor. I went to the neighbor to find out what happened. The worker has started the work at my neighbor's house. I asked the supervisor, when would be my unit's turn, he said: I knocked at your door this morning, but no one came to open the door, so we went to the next unit. I did not hear the door bell and missed the opportunity. But I think it was a special providence of God, because if the workers came to my house and started the work, I would not be able to have my devotion sharing in the meeting on that day. Besides, I did not have the time to prepare the place for them. To make a long story short, the supervisor promised me that he would come to my unit the next day, Wednesday, so that I had enough time to move the furniture and other things at home, and my wife was off from work for a few days, so that we had enough time to do the preparation work. This is indeed God's protection and care!

Later, I learned that this replacement project was not only to replace the underground water pipes, but to replace all the water pipes within the whole house. So, there were many holes in the walls around the house and even in the ceiling, all of a sudden, the house looks like a battlefield.

For the following two weeks, I have to get up early every morning to shower and brush my teeth and prepare the place before the water supply was turned off. Every day I wonder if the workers will come to work or not. Since they work on a very irregular schedule, a group of people came to work on this part and another group will come for the next steps (such as patching the walls, painting, etc...). I felt that I have to be watchful and wait every day. They may or may not show up, and only on Saturdays and

Sundays can they rest. Brothers and sisters, isn't it our Lord Jesus telling us to be watchful and wait, and prepare for His return?

In the process of replacing the water pipes, because the faucets in our bathrooms were old and did not fit well with the new water pipe and caused leaking, the plumber suggested that we buy new faucets at our own expense, and they would replace them for us with no extra charge. As a result, we seized the opportunity and bought three new bathroom faucets for them to install for us. Now, my house has been updated and renewed, and the faucets are no longer dripping like they used to be.

Now, my house has been renewed, and I believe I can live in peace for many years. In fact, our lives must be renewed so that we can continue to serve the Lord. Brothers and sisters, how often do we come before the Lord and let Him renew our lives? In this water pipe replacement project, I experienced and learned four things: God's divine providence, wait vigilantly, seize the opportunity, and renew my mind. Hope this reflection will encourage each other.

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龔敏光牧師

不經不覺已在列治文市居住了 30 年，而我所住的城鎮屋(townhouse)房子亦超過 30 年屋齡，在過去 5 年內，我的房子曾出現數次的水管破裂問題，幸好神讓我們及早發覺，沒有造成屋內財物的損毀，管理公司亦為我們修妥。其實，我們的城鎮屋有很多單位都發現有同樣的問題，究其原因，是當時建屋用的水管是「灰喉」，隨著年日會容易破裂，不合現時的建築標準，我的房子還有部分水管藏在地裡，情況就好像計時炸彈，不知道何時爆裂，造成破壞。

感謝神，在去年的業主大會中，我們通過議案更換所有單位的水管，大家一齊繳付特別維修費。這個決定雖然花費不少，但卻是一勞永逸，不像從前是頭痛醫頭，腳痛醫腳，沒有全面解決問題。

在今年四月尾，我們收到通知，更換水管工程將會在五月開始，我看見其他單位陸續施工，心想維修公司會預先通知我準備。誰知 5 月 18 日星期二早上，我正在準備教牧同工會議靈修分享時，忽然聽到從隔鄰傳來的電鑽聲，我到鄰居查看，原來工人開始為我鄰居維修，我問那位負責的工頭，甚麼時輪到我的單位，他說：今天早上我拍你的門時，沒有人來開門，所以我們去做下一個單位，原來我聽不到拍門聲，錯過了機會。但我想這樣錯過了是神的特別看顧，因為若工人當天就來維修，我就不能開會分享了。況且，我也沒有時間預備好地方，讓他們維修。長話短說，工頭應承我，明天星期三會來我的單位維修，讓我有足夠時間去搬動家裡的家具物品，而師母那幾天剛好不用上班，我們就有時間做預備工作，這確實是神的保守！

後來，我才知道這維修工程不只是更換地底下的水管，而是把全屋裡的水管都更換。所以，我看見這幅牆開一洞，那幅牆又開一個洞，連天花也要開洞，頓時家裡成了一個戰場一般的地方。

接下來的兩個星期，我每天都要一早起床，在停水之前做好梳洗，預備地方，心想不知道那些工人會不會進來工作，他們是不定時的，一組人做完，又有另一組人會來做其他工序(如收復牆壁，油漆等...)，我發覺我每天都在警醒等候，他們或許出現，或許不出現，除了星期六、日，才可以休息。弟兄姊妹，這樣的心態，豈不是主耶穌吩咐我們要警醒等候，預備祂的再來嗎？

在更換水管的過程中，因為我們浴室的水龍頭老舊，接駁了新水管有滲漏的問題，水管工人建議我們自費講買新的水龍頭，他們為我們免費更換。結果我們把握時機，趕快去買了三個合適的配件讓他們為我們安裝。現在，我的屋子好像更新了一樣，水龍頭不再像從前滴水了。

屋子現在更新了，我想有多年的安居。其實，我們的生命也要更新，讓我們能繼續服事主，我們有沒有常常來到主面前，讓祂更新我們的生命？在這件事上，我經歷了神常看顧，我學習了警醒等候、把握時機、心意更新，以此共勉。