

## The Watchmen of the City

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The social conflicts starting in June 2019 caused by the Extradition Bill and the consequences of the pandemic the COVID-19 from January 2020 have impacted on the entire community of Hong Kong which is now facing critical challenges. Recently, more, while the people in Hong Kong were still struggling for a way out from the predicament of political conflicts, the economic downturn and pandemic, the legislation and the implementation of the National Security Law was put into effect on June 30 and the controversial comments from different parties have left many Hong Kong people in a state of confusion and bewilderment.

At this moment in time, how should churches in Hong Kong exhibit their faith and love to those who are in despair because of the recent challenges and the anxieties they are encountering? As a Church body of Hong Kong how can HKCCCC enable Christian endeavors to demonstrate Christian commitment to the community? Are we ready to respond to the call of the Hong Kong people?

In the Old Testament, the watchmen of Jerusalem were assigned to monitor the stability of the city, the needs of the people and in particular the safety at night. For those watchmen who were on night duty, their task was tough (Isaiah 21:11; 62:6-7). In order to perform with due diligence, the watchmen had to commit themselves with perseverance so that the whole city could have a peaceful dawn at the start of a new day. Under the current situation, the messages of Psalms 130: 6 and Jeremiah 29:7 could be used to encourage the churches in Hong Kong to become competent watchmen of Hong Kong by seeking the strength and confidence from God.

When churches function as watchmen, they should not only passively monitor the environment and give comments, but more importantly to exercise the teachings of the Bible. Certainly the teachings of “to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8; Proverbs 21:21) are recognized by today’s Hong Kong Christians as the fundamental virtues. Surely through justice, equality and fairness could be established, through kindness the oppressed and captives liberated, and through humility pride erased and respect and inclusiveness upheld. At the same

time, it is also crucial that all Christians should behave according to the conduct of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5-7), otherwise we will fail in carrying out the mandate of justice, kindness and humility. Let's join together and mutually encourage each other to offer ourselves to be the watchmen of Hong Kong.