

Local Ministry Updates (4/16/2020)

Pray for help at our pantry on Saturday as we will be operating it as a drive-thru instead of normal. Each family will receive \$500 worth of food to last them a month. We need groceries for the next month as well, so that we can distribute them.

~Jerry Campbell, Love-in-Action~

We have currently halted our volunteer operations due to the virus. Our residences for men and women are also on lockdown to keep our residents from being exposed to the virus. Please pray for our finances. Our thrift stores are all closed and they account for 70% of our income.

~Brandy Suns, The Foundry~

Rob's and my work schedules have been crazy busy for the last month. Pray for us and our families as we balance work with everything else going on. Pray for the relationships we have with our city partners, that they will progress in good directions.

~Jase Vann, 5:9 Ministries~

North American Church Planter Updates (4/16/2020)

Quebec has been the most affected province in Canada, but we were still able to have wonderful Easter services! We had many more viewers than we expected on our livestream. We joined with a few other churches to sing Amazing Grace and it got over 40,000 views. We are so thankful for our friendship with Shades Mountain

~David Pothier, Montreal~

We had our first Easter services as a church, which was also the first true pre-recorded service as well. It went great, I taught from 1 Peter 1 on hope. What was exciting was that I got texts from people afterwards who told me that they probably wouldn't have visited our church in person, but now they want to connect with us because they watched the service online!

~Kevin Naylor, Birmingham~

Our entire family got Covid-19, but we've made it through and are all better now. Praise the Lord for a great service a couple of weeks ago for Easter. We had 3 times as many people as had ever been to one of our other Easter services.

~Yale Wall, Indianapolis~

Please pray for us here in New York. The virus is still ravaging our city and we just got word today that the stay at home order has been extended through May 15. We did just celebrate our first Easter service as a church and took the Lord's Supper for the first time as well!

~Garrett Raburn, New York~

Pray for follow-up on the more than 100 Easter baskets we delivered in the community around us. Some of the people told us that they would not have otherwise had baskets because they were nervous to go out shopping. Pray that the Lord would use this to connect people to our church

~Peter Park, Los Angeles~

We are not being as affected as most places by Covid-19. But pray for our small groups that are meeting via Zoom. And praise Jesus for what he put together on Easter weekend. We had an amazing Good Friday service out in the desert, where we took communion with a perfect sunset in the background. Then on Sunday 10 different people shared testimonies of how the Lord had changed their lives. It's so nice to have friends at Shades who stand beside us in our ministry

~Brian Hook, Tucson~

Pray for us as we serve in the community by preparing kids activity bags to give to our neighbors to help while they are in isolation. We want them to know that we care about the community. And we had a wonderful Easter weekend, with lots of views on our services. At its peak, we had 180 people watching and we've not even officially launched yet!

~Steven Castello, Boston~

Ministering online can be tough because I love being out with people! So we're still being intentional about serving the community. Pray that the Lord would work in the hearts of the 120 families we were able to give gift baskets to. We'd never had any sort of connection with 30 of those families. And got to connect and invite several hundred people to connect with us while we did really fun event with Chick-fil-a here as well.

~Chris Phillips, Denver~

International Missionary Updates (04/16/2020)

Last time we asked you to pray for one of our couples who is in Central Asia. He was sick with asthma and this country has been devastated by Coronavirus. He was finally able to go back to classes, and the first day back, his language instructor began asking questions about everything happening, and the conversation finally went to the Gospel and he was able to lead her to faith in Christ! Right there in the university, on their first day back!

Also, we had asked you to pray for our son and daughter in law, as they serve in Southeast Asia. They have been in quarantine for now a month, but because the majority of the people live day to day, they are suffering greatly, many families have no food. Our children are making up 10 food boxes every day in order to give them out in their community.

Also, many of our Global Focus church (churches we mentor through our Global Focus process) in Latin America are also taking food to needy people in their communities and to hospitals.

~Ralph and Xochitl Canada, Global Focus~

Thanks for your emails and continued interest in us. We really appreciate it. We are doing well and staying healthy. We're still staying home with the exception of the once or twice a week we need to go out for groceries. A week and a half ago they began requiring that you text the police for permission to go out, with a max of one trip out a day. Since we've been in for almost 4 weeks now, we've gotten kind of used to things as they are. We're continually thankful for WhatsApp, FaceTime, etc., to be able to stay in touch with people. This has been especially helpful for the kids. Thankfully, they don't seem to really mind being stuck at home.

We have continued to stream teachings twice a week for the last few weeks, with done groups having classes every other night. Each week more people are joining. This week, there is teaching every evening. We are exceedingly grateful for this capability.

~M and A, Central Asia~

I wanted to let you know of a connection that was made while I was at GIC at Shades. In one of the sessions I heard Peter Park and his family from LA introduce themselves. I have a friend here in Taiwan whose family was thinking of moving to LA and her husband is Korean, just like the Parks. So, I was able to get contact info from the Parks and pass it along to my friend. Her husband ended up taking a trip to LA (before Coronavirus got bad), to check out Fuller Seminary. He connected with the Parks and they spent some time together. My friend's family will move to LA for her husband to start Fuller this fall and he will also be helping out the Parks with their ministry. They are all so thankful for the way God used GIC to make that connection.

~Preston & Janelle Hite, Taiwan~

Please pray that we can minister here as our Lord wants in the midst of the COVID-19 situation. We continue to have language learning sessions with our language helpers (at the recommended distance). Pray that when it is time, we will be able to return to the US according to our Lord's will.

~J & L, West Africa~

Our lockdown was extended - we were on 3 week lockdown till 16 Apr, but now it's to at least 30 Apr. To be honest, we're doing ok and so lucky to have a little house with a small garden that we can be safe in, but my physical endurance running after a crawling 11mo old and mental capacity to juggle work and home-life is at its end. I, as everyone else in the world, am just DONE with this and want life to go back to normal.

Taye has recently been diagnosed with asthma, so we've been doing inhalers and bronchial treatments with him. This brings another reality check that he's in the vulnerable category in this Covid 19 thing ... his lungs are weak and we can't afford for him to get it while we're

figuring out this new asthma diagnosis. My mom's worry has heightened but trusting God for safety!

Ministry is still hectic - providing care packages, relief funds going to some of our mentors that have lost their jobs in this lockdown ... and trying to keep their mental health engaged by doing Zoom calls with those that have internet and coaching them to continue to grow and be in the Word during this time. We've even done workouts on Zoom to encourage their physical growth and health at this time too!

All that to say, we're making it. Praying for a miracle in the world and in South Africa so we can continue life and ministry SOON!

~Melanie and Andrew, South Africa~

We are doing OK at Create, which is part of a wider network of churches, Rising Brook. In fact, a few months ago I made some new connections with the local authority about how we can serve the community around Create and we were just ready to engage in quite a few new ministries at the start of April! But this has led to good relationships and we are now trying to make sure that everyone in the town has food and shopping done for them where they are locked down. The council came to me last week saying they had no other way of doing this so it is great they recognize the place of the church as compassionate and faith-filled and able to deploy people and resources.

The church community is in good shape - we had a really hard summer/early autumn but God has been gracious and there is faith and hope around. We are all using the output of Rising Brook's main campus for Sundays and then our churches are connecting as locations and groups within those churches for discipleship, prayer and fellowship

~Martin Young, England~