

International Missionary Updates (04/02/2020)

Please be praying for our colleagues who have been continuing our work while we are on stateside assignment. They are having to improvise a lot as they navigate the new territory of quarantine restrictions. Pray that they would be able to connect with our English Club contacts through social media. Also, pray that as they continue a discussion group through the book of Acts the participants would engage and be transformed by the Word.

~Drew and Sara, Eastern Europe~

Your IMB missionaries continue to serve faithfully around the globe even during these uniquely challenging times. Thank you for continuing to pray for them, and please know that we are praying for you as you serve others in your community.

All IMB missionaries live in their host countries on visas provided by that country. Some periodically leave the country in order to renew their visa. COVID-19 has presented us with a unique challenge. The challenge is that several missionary families will soon need to leave their host country to renew their visas and will not be able to return for an undetermined period because the host country has closed its borders to incoming travel. The decision has been made that these families will wait out this situation in the US and renew their necessary visas here, with the goal of returning to their host country at the earliest possible time. These missionaries will need housing in the US.

~Joe Dillon, International Mission Board~

As the world continues to be spiraling out of control I am so glad the the Lord is steadfast. The quarantine has been difficult in some ways. However, we have been meeting with partners from 3 different countries via Zoom. We've had amazing conversations, times of prayer and looking at the Word!

We appreciate the prayers of the people at Shades! We are hopeful the virus will subside so that we get back to the harvest! And I forgot to tell you that last week, before the lockdown, one of our network pastors who we'd trained, gave baptism to 23 people!!

~J, Southeast Asia~

Comparatively, the COVID19 has caused less number of deaths here, but the lock down has made poor and homeless suffer more. I hope that the lock down shall end by the end of April here and we may be able to resume our life gradually by the end of May. We are waiting and watching.

I shall get back to you as soon as we notice some improvement. I am continually watching the news from US and praying for mercy.

My children in the US are doing fine, working from home. The second daughter is in a city here, preparing for the test from her hostel. My wife and I have enough time with each other. I am able to work on my writing project. Over all, there is silver lining even in the present crisis.

~A & A, South Asia~

We currently have 3 Thai people leading our worship time and each of these three young people are from three very different people groups living here in Northern Thailand. God is truly reaching the nations for Jesus and God is truly transforming lives in Northern Thailand. Love & Prayers from the heart of the 10-40 Window as it scans through Asia.

~Michael and Hope Johnson, Thailand~

As of yet, the virus has not affected Taiwan nearly as much as the US. There are some community spread cases, so the jury is still out on what we'll see in the coming days, but the Lord is sovereign and good, and we trust Him! Our prayer is that the Church worldwide will be bold yet humble in sharing the hope to which we have been called!

~Preston and Janelle Hite, Taiwan~

This has been an unusual month for you, us and the rest of the world. As in most countries, Germany entered into a semi-quarantine in order to contain the outbreak of Coronavirus. Schools, sports clubs, theaters, restaurants, bars, and play grounds remain closed. We leave the house for necessary errands such as going to the grocery store. Thankfully, the government still allows us to take daily walks as a family, while maintaining social distance

It has, however, been difficult to serve our neighborhood and maintain contact with new friends and neighbors. We make ourselves available, send emails and texts and arrange Skype conversations. Even though we enjoy precious time together as a family, we also feel restless. Most of our friends feel boredom or frustration, others express anxiety and fear.

Thank you for praying and checking in on us. Please know that we are praying for you too! May the Lord protect, provide, heal and give you peace beyond all understanding.

Pray for creativity and opportunities to share the gospel during this time of social restrictions

Pray for us to maintain relationships and build new relationships despite the circumstances

Pray for Germany to trust in the Lord not just their political, social and health care systems

~Taylor and Lydia Whitley, Germany~

Requests:

- *H&C work among our people in London. Her mother lives in Dadeville and is being treated for C-19. Please pray that she recovers quickly and that her husband doesn't catch it as he has quite serious asthma.*
- *One of our workers in country who's father passed away a couple of months ago has had his Aunt pass away from C-19 today. He is in lockdown with his family, none of who are believers, and is really feeling the isolation from other believers.*

Victories:

- *The Congregation we are working with in country has been able to move their small groups and the main worship service to Zoom meetings. It has been received well and has a great participation. It is amazing to see how much the fellowship means to them even when it has to be virtual.*
- *In addition I am praying about starting a series on the Tabernacle as a recorded message that I have been trying to get to for years.*
- *Our team in France has said that they are even busier at home than they normally are because so many are now ready to talk. Their appointment calendar is full as they meet online continually in small groups and with individuals.*
- *In the south part of our country, our worker there has found that he is having great conversations with a number of neighbors (at a safe distance). One of his neighbors was a bit frightened until he saw him, thinking that if he was gone then the rapture must have occurred... (this is not a common reaction for our people). Our worker says that now this neighbor is ready for more serious conversations about Jesus.*

~H & A, Middle East~

D&D are in Central Asia. Their country was hit very hard with Coronavirus and he suffered respiratory issues, and one of them has been sick for about a week or so. They recently arrived on the field, and their team leaders were not permitted to travel to them. So D & D who have only been on the field a few months are all alone, and he is sick. Please pray especially for their family, and also for their team leaders.

We have one couple serving in east Asia, and have been on lockdown since the first of Jan. They are fine, but both are teachers, and have not been able to teach since Jan.

We have 7 families in North Africa, and all of them are fine, but all on lockdown, and worried about their families in Latin America.

We have 9 families in Central Asia and they are all on lockdown during this crisis. Some have their children studying here in the U.S. and now have had to move out of the university. Many of these families or individuals are doctors and work in hospitals, and continue to work, and are continuously exposed to the virus. Please pray for them.

Also pray for our daughter son in law, and our grandson who are serving in Southeast Asia. They, like the others, have made the decision to stay where they are and continue to minister to the local people. We are blessed to facetime with them every day now.

~Ralph & Xochitl Canada, Global Focus~

North American Planters and Mission Groups Updates (04/02/2020)

We are doing everything virtually at this point. There are small wins like people caring for those who are out of work and I think everyone is a little stir crazy. We are looking for permanent facility options for when this lifts. So pray that the Lord opens a door for us. We are concerned that the school will not allow us back in until August even if the ban gets lifted.

Thanks for asking.

~Ed Traverse, Ohio~

Prayer for us...

In this midst of this, we lost our trailer parking this week and we have 4 trailers now homeless. Temporary fix is the school, but having to find somewhere after that.

~Chris Phillips, Denver~

Pray for the two students from Taiwan and one from Taiwan to put their faith in Jesus. For Ali from Saudi Arabia as well.

Doesn't quite make sense but the Coronavirus hit and we sensed God leading us to plant a new Antioch Family. Just met for the first time and had 9 folks! So pray for us to see God extend his Kingdom in a time when otherwise it wouldn't seem possible.

~Kevin Naylor, Birmingham~

Thanks for checking in. We have spent the last couple weeks preparing and planning to better care for our people and to figure out a sustainable rhythm to serve our neighborhood. We are launching online community groups next week. We think this will be a great way to draw in newer believers and unbelieving friends. We'll also be hosting a virtual Vision Night on 4/19. As for serving the community, each CG will have a missional project. One is making masks for medical providers. The other is going to put together about 200 kids activity bags for families stuck at home. Definitely trying to keep moving forward, trusting God is at work in us. Looking at this as an opportunity, not a roadblock.

~Steven Castello, Boston~

North American Planters and Mission Groups Updates (04/02/2020)

Things to celebrate:

- Live streaming has been a success for us*
- Two weeks ago we baptized during our live stream*
- Last week we welcomed new members (voted in the comments) during our live stream*
- Over the past three week, we've distributed over 12,000 lbs of food to our neighbors dealing with economic challenges, specifically to families with kids who are on free lunches at school*
- We've had a lot of people from our church step up to serve*

Prayer requests:

- That people without deep roots in terms of their faith would stay connected, particularly in light of our not being able to be together*
- Wisdom for our leaders in knowing how to do effective discipleship and outreach*
- Finances*

~Jeff Belcher, Baltimore~