

We're doing ok. I'm finally in the groove of lockdown. I've got a good handle on routine, how to juggle baby's needs and work in-between. Mentoring is going so well. We've actually GROWN during the lockdown - given out more of our mentoring books and started more mentoring groups. People needed a tool to connect and support each other, and thankfully that's our business. Andrew and I are doing art lessons/creative development via Zoom. Thank you for your care and support.

~Andrew and Melanie Mogkatla, South Africa~

Our family is doing well – Gabi and I are great, celebrating our fourth anniversary this year!

Our church is doing well also – we just had our first family join our church this week! That means our first parents and first kids, because previously we only had couples without kids or singles. So both wisdom and youth are part of our church now. :) This new family also planted a church themselves several years ago, so are bringing that experience to Mission City now. We are SO thankful for them.

Our city, not so good – crime and general chaos is rising, along with LOTS of worries, articles, and conversations floating around about New York City turning back into the rough place it was several decades ago. This is due to Covid causing billions of dollars of shortfall in the city budget that will hit us in the next few years. There's lots of "gloom and doom" out there about our city getting pretty gritty....but all the more opportunity to share hope in Jesus. :)

~Garrett and Gabi Raburn, New York

Tomorrow (20 August) we will go on a prayer walk through a neighborhood called Prenzlauer Berg in Berlin. This is one of several neighborhoods we have identified as a potential location for an international church plant. If you are able, we ask you to pray with us as we walk and pray in Prenzlauer Berg (7-8am AL Time)

Specific Prayer Requests

- vision for which unique neighborhood needs an international church
- discernment regarding if our family should move to and minister in Berlin
- clarity about which churches and organizations we should partner with
- God to provide an international team of people to join us
- God to be at work in the hearts of Berlin's people, bringing them to know Him

~Taylor and Lydia Whitley, Germany~

As it ended up, we were able to only do two of our eight camps this summer. We were planning doing four in July, but had to cancel the last two camps in July. Since then camps and retreats have almost come to a standstill. We are using this time to evaluate and pray asking God to show us how He can best use us during this time.

Shades continues to be a blessing to us, and especially during this time. Many have continued to call and check in.

~Terry Slawson, Seeker Springs, LA~

Pray for teammates who are arriving in the next week. The parents have visited this country one time, their kids have never been here, and none of them know the language. It will be a really challenging time for this family, as they will be quarantined in a local hotel, so it will be days of strange sounds and strange tastes. They will have some contact with the team, if the Internet is good in the hotel. But otherwise it will be local language TV in the hotel room and food delivered by the hotel staff. They will be picked up from the airport almost on the tarmac and taken to the hotel for one week. Then they will if they pass the corona test they will go to the Home that's rented for them on quarantine for another week. And just for kicks, the kids will start in a foreign language speaking school the day after they come out of homebound quarantine.

J & A, North Africa

Everyday seems to be different but one thing remains - God's love.

We have filtered through over 50 applications for financial assistance this week and continued on with curbside food. We want to ease back into our normal routine with bringing in the families for prayer and shopping soon (maybe).

In July we started our first every online assistance program. We are now allowing families in need to submit their request online through our website form. This allows those who might be sick, without transportation, or are not able to come to us to still get the help they need. Please pass the word on so we can help as many people as possible.

~Jonathan Edwards and John Gibson, Serving You~

My book, **Garth Banner Connects the Dots: A Story of Spiritual Discovery and Discernment**, finished and now available to be purchased.

I've committed 100% of the revenue from this book to missions. My prayer is that this book will open the eyes of teens to the reality of God's presence in our world in a new way.

In Mark 4:10-13 it says this (from The Message) "When they were off by themselves, those who were close to him, along with the Twelve, asked about the stories. He told them, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom -- you know how it works. But to those who can't see it yet, everything comes in stories, creating readiness, nudging them toward receptive insight. These are people -- whose eyes are open but don't see a thing, whose ears are open but don't understand a word, and who avoid making an about-face and getting forgiven." He continued, "Do you see how this story works? All my stories work this way."

I'd like the book to help sustain our camp.

~Art Nilsen, the Azores~

We ask that as you think of us you would pray for our team, that they would persevere as things open up and work resumes, even at a different pace. We love them and want to encourage them in their faithfulness. They are our heroes!

Pray also for our family, that everyone would be healthy and strong, we would be patient with one another, and serve each other well. Also, that we would adjust well as our family grows.

God bless all of you saints that pray the will of God!

~M & S, North Africa~

Thank you so much for the prayers and concerns for our family! That means more than you know!

Our church has been meeting in person since the end of May and filming services for online as well. We just went into contract for a building that would be a permanent home for our church. Please pray that it all goes well and we are able to proceed without any problems from the city.

~Ed Traverse, Westerville, OH~

There have been some encouraging things going on here despite the COVID-19 numbers rising, falling, and rising again day by day. After going back to live service at the cafe for a few weeks, we returned to online service again. When the number of cases greatly passed the previous record (the "first wave"), people quickly lost enthusiasm for returning to live services. Regardless of how much we would like to go back to "normal", it's impossible until confidence is restored.

But on to the encouragement! One of the more difficult challenges for me was when church members expressed concern about singing out loud. This activity has been linked to virus spread in confined spaces. Since co-workers Gordon and Julie returned to the States, I have been leading the worship time. So I had to find ways to worship in the service without singing. This has turned out to be a real positive in our church member's spiritual life. We shared that singing is not the only way to express a heart of worship. There are so many ways. We used Scripture, or meditating on the Bible verses in stillness. We asked people to just listen to a worship song and focus on the lyrics. We wanted to teach them that worship begins with knowing God deeply. From that knowledge, our hearts can express worship in many different ways. So we took this as an opportunity to learn and to grow in our daily worship. Every week, we have been sharing the definition of worship and one practical application to lead us towards growth in our personal, daily worship of Christ.

~Steve and Kyehee Taylor, Tokyo~

While waiting for the arrival of curriculum, A has had time to resume her Bible Study started again with ladies that live nearby. This is done bi-weekly but the ladies are asking to do it weekly. She is blessed by this as well as these women. Lift her up as she prepares for this weekly as well as all she does with homeschooling, not to mention taking care of the home, and helping M with his ministry.

~M & A, North Africa~

We have been giving glory to God for what He has been doing in our ministry area especially through the food distribution. We served 270 families and international students in need of food for the last four months. Feeding the hungry families during such a great crisis was a joy for us.

Silvanus got a message that Sangita (23), one of the food recipients might be joining for in-person worship service next Sunday. We are excited to welcome this young lady who has just received the gospel and has a desire to come to the church.

~Silvanus and Aleno Bhandari, New York~

I have now been back in country for about a month. The first two weeks me and my teammates quarantined at home, which provided time for adjusting, getting over jet lag, and checking in with our local friends. After those first 14 days we were all eager to get out and about and see people. There are not nearly the amount of restrictions here as there are currently in many places in the U.S. and the rest of the world, but things definitely look different. It is so strange to walk down the streets and not be able to smile at people (although I'm definitely smiling behind my mask). Hand washing stations are seen in front of many businesses, the streets don't seem as busy as normal, and I miss being with my students in and out of the classroom. But, the slower pace has also made more time for language learning, one on one visits with people, and team prayer.

Lift Up:

- Pray for financial provision.
- Pray that things would continue to remain calm and peaceful in the country.
- Schools are closed, which means we cannot teach right now. Pray for wisdom as we look for ministry opportunities. Pray that the Lord would use us in new and different ways.
- Pray for our team to be united in loving and encouraging each other well.
- Pray that we would be able to make progress with language learning.
- Continue to pray for protection and provision for our country as COVID-19 remains a prevalent issue.

~M, East Africa~

We've gotten to re-start church and a couple of new bible studies, and had a youth retreat with our church. We even got to baptize two girls on the retreat. Pray for a couple of guys in our bible study, one whom I've had to ask him to refrain from trying to convince others in the group that the bible is not true. And pray for our team unity as we've welcomed some new people and are all getting to know one another.

Also pray that this virus doesn't return, requiring everything to shut down again. There are reports that it is flaring up in places. Thank you for the prayers and the words of affirmation, I really appreciate them

~Seth Graves, Spain~

Thank you for supporting in prayer! We think of our Shades family often, with much gratitude! This season of worldwide challenge has been a season of transition for us. As we've said in our previous newsletters, the Lord has called us from the small and remote east-coast city of Taitung to the large central city of Taichung. We will miss the people and ministries the Lord gave us in Taitung, but we are very excited about His plans to grow our impact in our new home (while we will also maintain our Taitung friendships and some of our Taitung ministry involvement from afar).

Janelle's work in English Club took the students through units in sports, food, and transportation. With the sports unit, the students competed in the games that they were learning English words to describe. In the transportation unit, the students built and raced miniature air-powered cars, paper airplanes, and hot air balloons! In the food unit, the students formed their own English-language food delivery service, then took and filled orders from teachers and administrators around the school, preparing all of the food themselves, using their vocabulary words!

~Preston and Janelle Hite, Taiwan~

Please pray for us as we reshape our discipleship and development process. Much prayer is needed for that in light of Covid

~James Roberson, New York~

Pray for us as we move our family back home from the US. We're thankful for our time here, but also very excited about going back there. Pray for smooth travel and a smooth re-entry into our country. And as always, please pray for the people there to trust Christ as their Lord and Savior

~J & L, Africa~