

Probably, we are all wondering, "How long O Lord?" The Covid19 crisis seems to be worsening everyday. We are tired and often confused. Sometime we are perplexed about necessity of a complete lockdown. Whether there could be a precise surgical lockdown then a complete one. Welcome to a new world of lockdown.

We need a direct intervention of God more than ever before. Our ears are longing to hear some good news in this time of uncertainty. Let us together pray earnestly for a sign of hope.

Although there should not have been much to report from this lockdown period; however, I am glad to inform you that the work never stopped completely. It slowed down, but it has been progressing. As a matter of fact, I found myself busier than before. I have had a series of Zoom meetings and writing assignments. We also had several staff meetings done more fruitfully than before. Without travel, without hiring a conference room, or arranging meals, the Zoom meetings helped us to achieve much more. We learnt a new method of ministry.

Thanks to you all for your consistent support and prayers. May the good Lord be with you during this time of Crisis.

**~AK and Asangla, South Asia~**

Good news on the school! The school district superintendent has allowed Aspire to meet beginning July 12. It's a special exception not offered to any other organization. Our focus on the community was the single reason for this exception.

Praise God!

Of course this situation can change based on state mandates re: COVID-19

Thanks for your prayers. They mattered.

**~Brian & Jessica Hook, Tucson~**

Pray for our mentoring program that will be beginning in the next few weeks. The goal of the program is simply to build relationship between mentor and your mentee while sharing a meal together. Mentors are not asked to "fix" their mentee...they are simply there to be a Christian influence by listening, encouraging, and supporting them. Pray that there would be good relationships built and that Christ would be displayed.

**~Michael Coleman, Jimmie Hale Mission~**

We are doing well. We got to baptize a woman 2 weeks ago and at the moment, we have 90% of the pre-COVID attendance in our Sunday Services. Please pray for a family in our church that is going through an extremely complicated and difficult situation. Pray for our church members who are trying to help and for God to show favor on this family

**~Jeff Belcher, Baltimore~**

I wanted to let you know that we received word this morning that we've been given the approval to homeschool!! 🙌🙌🙌 Next week we can officially submit our visa application. This is a huge relief and an answer to many prayers! Many thanks to all of you for faithfully lifting this up.

**~Mo & Alicia, Central Asia~**

We're not being allowed to meet in our school until at least September and we've had a difficult time finding a place. We've had some steady growth online, though our congregation is beginning to have Zoom fatigue. So we will try to do some outdoor activities to help continue in community. Also, please pray for our family as we adjust to life with our new baby girl at home. Everyone is a bit tired at the moment.

**~Michael Guyer, Ann Arbor~**

Today we drive to Taichung from Taitung. Our movers came yesterday. Unfortunately Taiwanese moving trucks are small so it could not fit all of our stuff. We have stored some at a friend's and Preston will rent a truck and finish our move next week. We are pretty tired. Worked yesterday from 5:00 am - 11:30 pm and are back up at 5:00 am and will soon make the 6 hour drive.

My friend is doing ok. She has a doctor's appointment today. She has finished her first round of chemo. The first round was pretty hard on her. I am continuing to share Truth with her. Thanks so much for praying for her.

IMB teams seems to be good. Some of them will meet us at our new home today to help us and the movers get every unloaded.

Thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers. We appreciate them so much.

**~Preston and Janelle Hite, Taiwan~**

We lost a lot of momentum due to the virus, it is almost like we are re-starting. Combine that with a lot of the social unrest in our community, and we could use some prayer. Please pray specifically for some of the community engagement activities we'll be doing this fall, and even consider coming out here to serve with us!!

**~Chris Phillips, Denver~**

As a family, we're doing fine. We got to take a week away last week. Went to the northern part of our country, mountains and coast. Really enjoyed it.

We'd appreciate you praying for our continued adjustment here. Although we speak the language, the culture is still foreign to us. Also pray for decisions about the boys' schooling in the fall.

**~D & L, Europe~**

Like most, our summer plans have changed, though by the end of July we should have an old church that we're able to meet in. Our plan is to try to gather weekly in the fall. Pray that we will be able to build bridges and have healthy dialogues with others in the community around us as we all work through this time of social unrest together.

**~Steven Castello, Boston~**

Andrew has been fortunate to get a few more projects to work on. We desire for the creative-side of the business to take off and be more sustainable but with Covid and it being a 'niche' thing (not essential service) it's been difficult. We truly desire for the Lord to be glorified in people's stories and for them to learn how to tell it creatively and have a memento to remember all that God has done. That's the big vision. Andrew is so talented and we know he's been given this for a reason, but waiting on God's timing to grow the business and mission opportunity.

Pray or me, I feel sluggish in my spiritual walk. I desire more. I know all the right things to say and I know what I should be doing but the effort to get into the Word has been hard for me of late. I'd love prayers for a revival in my heart.

For us as a couple - may God lead us to unity in mission and joy in this season. May He speak to us both and lead us. May we not be held down to what we're currently doing (only) but be open to where the Lord is leading and taking GROW Mentoring as well as our work with local churches.

For GROW Mentoring - that we'd have a new vision and pivot efforts in this time of lockdown (we're still on a very restricted movement - only essential work and businesses that open the economy. We can take a walk or exercise within a 5km radius of our home which has been nice). May God show us how to use technology in a new way to mentor and serve our leaders.

That's us for now. Appreciate you keeping in touch and supporting us in so many ways! Bless you.

~Melanie and Andrew Mokgatla~

Along with the many **unexpected challenges**, we've also been given some **unique opportunities** to carry out our mission to a city in need! When schools were closed down in mid-march, Refuge was able to supply internet access to lower-income families for distance learning, provide meals for families who were dependent upon resources no longer available to them, purchase groceries & supplies for those who were suddenly out of work, and we're currently to find even more ways to get involved! And through it all, people in our community are being personally impacted by the love of a God they once doubted the very existence of! THANK YOU SO MUCH for locking arms with us Refuge Community Church throughout this crisis!

Please pray for:

NEW OPPORTUNITIES to impact our community

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES to meet some unexpected needs

CLEAR DIRECTION as we work to carry out our mission without the benefit of in-person ministry

~Jeremy Proemsey, San Francisco~

On June 22, God helped us to rescue Rita (name changed for security reasons) from a kind of "bondage" situation. We are thankful for NYPD Officers from the NY State Police, Highlands, NY for their great help in the process of rescuing this young lady. Yesterday, we asked her if she is feeling safe. She quoted from Psalms and said, *"In my distress, I prayed to the Lord, and the Lord answered me and set me free (Psalms 118:8)."*

A few days ago, Bhawani, the owner of Sumnima Kitchen called us and checked with him if our volunteers forgot to close the door of our food pantry. Then he found his cash register broken, and all of the cash excepts coins (cents) were stolen. Thieves broke the door lock of our food pantry using a knife. They entered into the food pantry where we have stored thousands of pounds of non-perishable food. And from the food pantry, they entered the restaurant counter through the internal access door. Thankfully there is no physical damage to the property. Thieves didn't touch any single food box of our food pantry.

**~Silvanus Bhandari, Queens, NY~**

I'm doing good. I am doing a lot better now that we can get out and about. The state of alarm has officially ended, but there are still some restrictions in place. We have to wear masks everywhere in public and most places have a limit on the number of people allowed in at one time. However, we have moved all of our ministry stuff back to in-person meetings!

We have one last church service on FB/YouTube this Sunday and then we are going to start meeting in a park for the rest of the summer. We will start church at 8 pm to avoid the heat. Much different than the US! Haha

If you don't mind praying for opportunities to witness and start Bible studies, that would be very much appreciated! We have had a huge interest in our English chats in the new area and have met a lot of new people. We also have about 15 people interested in coming to one of our seeker-friendly Bible discussions this Sunday!! God is moving and we are excited to be a part of it!

**~Seth Graves, Spain~**

In May - June 2020, we continued the online communication with our supported pastors and missionaries, responding to their needs, wiring financial support for their families, and providing food for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from Central Asia. Even as we write this, COVID-19 quarantine is still being enforced in most of central Asia, and eastern Europe. In Toronto, churches can worship at 30 percent of their capacity. Any food services, singing, and choir participation are prohibited. The border with America is closed until at least July 21st, 2020. Every Sunday, we continued to hold Zoom worship services out of Toronto, which were "attended" by Christians and those that do not know Christ yet from Canada, the United States, eastern Europe, and central Asia.

Please, allow us to express our gratitude for your prayers for our mission work and family. Thank you for your continued faithful support. Your gifts enable us to minister to people from many nations. It is a privilege for us to serve as Christ's ambassadors.

**~Oleg and Natasha Turlac, Turlac Ministries~**

It's been an intense couple of months.

I think the biggest prayer request is the racial tensions in the city along with tragic frequency of violence in the marginalized sections of Brooklyn and throughout the city. There is much work to do on both fronts.

As far as updates the Lord has blessed us as a church to be able to help other churches and businesses through the pandemic. Honestly our young churches generosity has blown our leadership away.

**~James Roberson, NY~**