

Mission Partner Updates (6/5/2020)

Here are some specific ways you can pray for us:

- On Friday we're visiting the family of some of our son's close friends. Pray for good conversations.
- On Saturday we're having one of our neighbors over for a traditional meal. (Don't worry, we're following social distance rules!!)
- On Sunday afternoon, local time, I will lead a basketball coaches clinic for coaches from different areas of the world.

For all of these things, we ask for your prayers. And pray that we would be a light and will seek opportunities to speak words of testimony and truth. Ask that the basketball clinic would open doors for us.

~D & L, Europe~

Tim is beginning a new assignment and it was to begin on August 1st, but he is still waiting on his Visa to be approved. This puts the family in limbo since they can't move forward with any plans until that happens.

Specific prayer requests:

- That the Visa will be approved in a timely fashion so that they can begin to make their transition—Tim overseas and Renee and Daniel to AL.
- Once the Visa is approved, that Renee can find a home to rent in well before the new school year starts in AL for Daniel.
- Daniel (finishing 10th grade) will be able to transition well emotionally and that all the transferring of academic credit can be done smoothly (especially since most school systems are currently closed)
- That Heatherly Grace (student at AU) will continue to be blessed and encouraged as she has had to live independent of the family for a while
- That this move will be a way to be able to better care for aging parents

~Tim and Renee, US Army chaplain~

We've had lots of plans with our US family that had to be cancelled this summer. Normally we would be very sad as we will now be alone facing a difficult summer. But as our country begins to slowly lift restrictions, we aren't dreading a long summer here. Instead, we are excited. Not because we are getting to see our family, or getting to take a trip that was our dream trip, or because we have fun things planned... but because the one thing that we want more than anything is happening. The Father is drawing hearts to himself, and they are coming! The summer will still be hot and long, but it is so worth it if we can be used in some tiny way to see the Kingdom spread. Will you pray with us??? Pray that eyes are opened, that meetings are had, especially face to face meetings with 2 new brothers, that bibles are received and read, and that new hearts enter the Kingdom.

~J & A, North Africa~

Thank you so much for checking in. I really appreciate it. Aleno, I and church family are doing well. Everyone is having good health now. We are still busy in delivering food boxes to the needy families. Today we delivered around 2000lbs of food 36 needy families and international students at their door steps. Last week also we served around 70 families with food boxes.

The riot has badly impacted our city. Curfew takes place from 8pm to 5am every night until June 8. City is facing very painful time these days. Praise God our church members are safe. Our neighborhood where Aleno and I do live is relatively safe and peaceful.

Sagar, one of our church members is devastated for his mom is near to death due to cancer. She is in Kathmandu and Sagar can't travel to be with his mom, it's very painful. Please pray for him and his families back home in Nepal.

I got an email from my apartment landlord that they increased 6% rental to renew lease. Aleno and I shocked by knowing this. I think it's not fair. Please pray for our landlord if he would consider to reduce the increment %. Ato is doing well back in Nagaland.

Please convey our warm greetings to the church family for us

~Silvanus Bhandari, Queens, NY~

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.

COVID-19 has presented us with a unique challenge. The challenge is that several missionary families, who have left their host country will not be able to return for an undetermined period because the host country has closed its borders to incoming travel.

These families will wait out this situation in the US, with the goal of returning to their host country at the earliest possible time. Many of these missionaries continue to need housing in the US.

~Joe Dillon, International Mission Board~

We are all doing well and everyone is healthy.

We are looking at several options to find a long term permanent facility and need God to provide guidance and provision. It is exciting and terrifying all at the same time!

~Ed Traverse, Westerville, OH~

Thank you for checking in. We are making it okay. If you all would please pray for our city to recover peace, and for churches to be brought together through this, rather than pushed apart. These are challenging times for all of us.

~Garrett Raburn, Queens, NY~

Things are definitely still weird! :)

Masks are still a must, \$1,000 fine in public without one. Restaurant just go the okay to open, but many are not open yet. Everyone is 50% capacity or 50 people, whichever is less and that also means the same for outdoor service also.

There isn't anyone here banging on the door for churches to regather again. Same is true for the racial reconciliation. Although Denver isn't as diverse as Memphis, Birmingham, and others, there are a TON of protestors, etc.

So, we're hanging in there, praying, and waiting patiently and putting ALL of our efforts into the best online experience we can have, while REALLY connecting personally with people on a one-on-one basis.

~Chris Phillips, Denver~

But 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! And we wouldn't have been able to do any of it without the love and support that YOU have continued to show us, despite having your own challenges to navigate. THANK YOU SO MUCH for locking arms with us Refuge Community Church throughout this crisis!

~Jeremy Proemsey, San Francisco~

We are doing well. Things are easing up here as well. We are free to move around as we like but social distancing is still expected. The easing of restrictions came a bit earlier than they initially stated because of a heat wave we had a couple of weeks ago. It was 103+F temps for over a week!! They had to allow people to go to the beach to get relief from the heat, but not in groups, only in immediate families. Now we're allowed to see other people as long as the group doesn't exceed 10 people. They're thinking that after June 9 things will become even more "normal" as they're hoping to reopen to some foreign tourists. We'll see how that goes.

The last week or so more government offices have reopened so we've been busy getting all of our final documents together to be able to finally apply for our visa. Hopefully we'll get the last one in the next few days.

~M & A, Central Asia~