

International Missionary Updates

We appreciate the prayers and thoughts and it's so good to know Shades is remembering us. All the schools have now closed, so we are home with all of our kids. We are figuring out homeschooling our children in a language that we don't speak. Pray that we have patience and are able to do this well, as well as have some fun family memories during this time. So far we are still free to leave the house for groceries, but we are under curfew from 6pm, and all restaurants and cafes must close at 4. The airport is shut down, so there is no way to get in or out. Although not many cases have been reported here, we are sure there are exponentially more because the ability to test for them is low. Our big concern is that a third world country like this won't be able to handle a huge outbreak like Italy or the US because the medical facilities and government are just not as strong as European countries or America. So, if things get bad here they could get very bad. We are praying that does not happen, and are looking for opportunities to use this as a way to share hope. Right now people are very scared here. While at the moment we can't have much interaction face to face with locals, we are keeping up with them via text and phone, looking for ways to love on others, and praying that after this is over we will have many opportunities to point to the Hope that we have! ~A & J, North Africa~

We are in a hotel with special permission. We are the only foreigners in the hotel and practically the only ones there. We fly out at 6 pm tomorrow and our next flight leaves at 3:40 am the following day. Our final counts were 500 gospel shares and 43 new believers in Hindu and Buddhist strongholds! Please continue to pray for all those who heard the gospel!

~Don, Mission Trip to South Asia~

Things here have been pretty calm so far. We just had our first few reported cases over the weekend so things are slowly shutting down and people seem to be taking it seriously. I think the unpredictable response is what tends to make me feel anxious, but my team has been handling it all really well so that is good. Thank you so much for your prayers and encouragement.

~M, East Africa~

God has been so good to us, we have no debt and we have money to pay quite a few months of normal operating expenses. If the crisis continues we'd be concerned about monthly fixed costs. So our prayer concerns moving forward, in the short-run, aren't financial. Please pray for the ability to have camp this summer. The camps are at risk if the virus doesn't subside and the fear doesn't go-away.

~Art and Deb Nilsen, Azores~

And thank you for reaching out during such a crazy and stressful time for most of the planet! Things are changing at such a speed they it's hard to keep up and there are definitely significant challenges for our personnel through it. Our country has imposed a restricted movement law now, and has closed its borders. We currently have one family in which the wife is separated from the rest of the family because she returned to the US just before this to deal with a family issue. Now our country has closed its doors to all foreigners for at least 2 weeks and the rest of her family is back in. Additionally we have multiple personnel in country whose visas are running

out. They would usually leave for a few days to renew them, but now they can't get back in if they do. So there are some difficult decisions to be made in the next few days. The first person just died in our country from coronavirus and it was a pastor (not someone we knew but tragic nonetheless). In the midst of this, our team is trying to do what it can to continue to share the gospel at every opportunity and to help those most affected by things financially as well. So lift them up, for creative and safe ways to do those things. Thank you again for asking how y'all can pray! We appreciate that so much! Praying the Lord will use your church mightily during these days.

~M & K, Southeast Asia~

We have been deeply affected since January but wouldn't say we are on full lockdown. We have cancelled school for two weeks as a precautionary measure and are very concerned since we surrounded by Chinese students who have been going inland out of China. But the most major effect in our work has affected our new building construction. We have made our plans to complete this part of our construction phase by having partner churches sending over teams to help but we have had 0 - zero - that is none - since January which means our construction process has virtually stopped. Please share this with Pastor Danny and the rest of the church so that they will know how to pray for us.

~ Michael Johnson, Thailand

Thanks for the prayers and words of encouragement.

We announced this morning that all of our volunteer programs have been suspended until further notice.

All International Staff will continue programs with the local national staff.

All travel has been suspended unless a staff member chooses to go home but will not be able to return until all clear is given.

I am having to cancel my wife Gwinda's trip for next Friday to come here for a week. This is going to be very difficult for the both of us.

Please pray for Gwinda and I as we continue to be separated longer than we planned.

~Ronald Robinson, Bahamas~

Thank you so much for continuing to check in on us and for your prayers. We are currently in the US at my parents staying at their house. We were to return to our country in the next few weeks, but the government has said that anyone with any kind of visa other than a handful of really important ones which we do not have, will not be able to enter our country until after 15 April. We've been watching the situation closely and it seems like coronavirus is now becoming a fairly big issue in our country. Chances are, come time to leave, we will not want to return there. But like I said we are watching everything closely. Please pray for our national brothers and sisters who are trying their best to stay encouraged and available to serve their communities and their churches. Many, like those of us in the states, are not sure the best course of action so please pray for wisdom for our national partners and also for our M's that are still in country. We have had to cancel many things, including trainings and retreats, but we know that the Lord is still Lord. And we do not lose hope or faith that he is in control. Please pray for us as we hang out here. It always seems that stateside never goes the way you imagined that it would. I can foresee,

as things continue to close, that our stateside will go very different from what we had imagined. Please pray for our hearts to be encouraged despite not being able to do all the wonderful things we had planned to do. Instead pray that our time with family will be rich and bring much joy to our family!

~S & W, South Asia~

-Gospel opportunities even in the midst of quarantine. Our prayer is that this may cause people to be even more open to hearing the good news of hope and salvation! We are getting creative in how we meet for Bible studies or share the gospel, so pray that we would continue to see fruit.

-Team unity and teammates. We are all keeping in good spirits and are in constant communication. There are two families on the team here, so they are struggling to keep the kids occupied and keep up with all the homework that the schools are sending. Please pray for patience and grace for all of us with one another!

-Health. The number of cases and deaths is still on the rise here in Spain and in other parts of the world. Please pray for the health of those around the globe, especially those who are considered high risk. These deaths are so much more than just a number on a website, and they constantly remind me of the fact that many Spaniards are dying without the hope of salvation.

-Obedience. In the times when it is difficult to understand all that is happening, please pray that we as a team would continue to walk in obedience to the Lord. I read Hebrews 5 today and verse 8 struck me: "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered." Our suffering is minimal compared to what Christ suffered, but my prayer is that we would all grow even more in obedience from all of this.

-Salvations!!! The biggest prayer is that everything that is happening (sicknesses, deaths, loss of hope/security, isolation, team spiritual growth, etc.) would be turned for the greatest good of all in bringing many lost people to salvation! We know that God is able and has us here during this time for a reason, so pray that there is a great movement of the Spirit and the gospel here in Seville during and after this crisis!

I think that's it for now. Thank you so much for praying for all of us. Tell everyone that I am thankful for their prayers and support!

~Seth Graves, Spain~

Pray for wisdom as we make decisions that impact our personnel during the pandemic. We have folks in remote areas that have none or poor medical care. We need to support them in the best way possible.

Pray that our personnel and partners will stay in AWE of God. These times can shift our gaze to the problem instead of the eternal solution.

Pray that many will decide to follow Christ and pray that God will raise up workers for the harvest.

Pray for wisdom for us as we try to negotiate our return to Namibia. We are scheduled to leave the 9th of April, but its looking like that will not be possible.

I can't tell you how much it means to me that you desire to pray with us. Please express our thanks to the church for the amazing way we were loved on while at Shades Mountain

~ Bryan and Dana Bullington, Namibia~

1. I arrived back in country just before the 14 day quarantine was put into effect for people returning here. I praise God for that because it would have meant that all three of us would have been on lockdown for 14 days. That would have been a huge ordeal!

2. My wife left for the USA six days after I returned here. So, now, because of the virus, she's stuck in the USA and her flight home isn't until April 8th. We have to find lodging and other needs for her that we weren't expecting. So, please pray for her to be able to do all of this in a very short amount of time.

3. Pray for my national brothers as they do not have the care anywhere close to what the USA provides.

4. The work in my region, for me, is on pause indefinitely. I'm just grateful that I serve a God that never tires or gets sick. He is still moving. In the last 30 days we've seen about 150 people come to faith, dozens of baptisms and new work opening in new places. He will not be deterred!

~J, South Asia~

North American Planters and Mission Groups Updates (03/17/2020)

ME: for wisdom to lead well through this crisis. Lead myself, my family, my church, and the community we're here to reach. FAMILY: To take advantage of this unique opportunity to grow together in faith in life as we're forced to spend every moment together under 1 roof. CHURCH: That we would be a voice of wisdom, hope & strength in all the confusion, a source of light & life for people searching for answers in all of this, and a picture of irrational generosity to a region of people who view God as a harsh 'taker'.

~ **Jeremy Proemsey**, San Francisco~

The WellHouse is currently in the midst of rescuing a 14 year old female, that needs God's miraculous timing. Please pray for God's timing to be favorable in getting her to a safe place where she can begin to heal. In our quest to cover our law enforcement partners in prayer, please remember the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in your prayers

Pray for our new little baby to learn that night time is for sleeping! And pray for her mother to find time to rest. She is doing amazing, but she is so very tired. Pray one of our residents to quickly return to us, and to be uplifted during her legal battles. She is safe, but we miss her joyful spirit. Pray for continuing awareness during this time of cancelled events and speaking engagements.

Lastly please pray for peace. Peace for our residents, staff, volunteers, and friends of The WellHouse.

~ **Holly Hyche**, The Wellhouse~

Pray for my bride. She's a nurse in Manhattan, and her kid's clinic is full of panicky moms and sick kids (though none that are corona-positive yet). Pray that she stays healthy and safe as she goes to and from a nearly-deserted city for work every day. Proud of her for holding her post. And pray for our church, many of whom have left New York City...there's less than a dozen of us still here, some pretty isolated and discouraged in their apartments.

~ **Garrett Raburn**, New York City~

Many of our people are college students, and the university here has cancelled regular classes for the rest

of the semester and has moved to online classes. We're really hoping we don't lose the hearts of people in what is essentially a 6-month summer break. Also, Autumn just started a new job and after 4 days has started working from home. So, prayer for her to figure it out quickly would be great.

~ **Yale Wall**, Indianapolis~