

1 April 2021

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" –Revelation 7:9-10 NKJV

Dear Friends,

Greetings from sunny Florida, now in our second year of the pandemic and all that goes with that. It has been an interesting year filled with challenges, opportunities, new ways of living and ministering and yes, hope. Earlier Elaine and I helped with a celebration of the past decade of what our Lord has done in expanding His kingdom around the world. I would like to share with you something that really encouraged me and put things into perspective. It is a YouTube video that one of our friends put together saying Thank You to our staff leaders from around the world and includes pictures of our Area team (we divide the globe into 13 Areas) and their national leaders.

In 1980 Elaine and I left the US to serve in Asia alongside our national leaders and other missionaries. Our goal was to help our national leaders build strong local movements and raise up national leaders. This has been the goal of missionaries for centuries. You can see from the video how much God has done. Elaine and I had a part in this along with you (and yes, I realize in the



One Area group of leaders from the video

grand scheme of things, together ours is a small part, but significant). This is the link which I would encourage you to watch as I am sure it will also encourage you. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgdJYDzYUis>) (Most Area names are pretty obvious except two, they are – PACT (Persia, Armenia, Caucasus, Turkey) and NAME (North Africa, Middle East).

The pandemic has changed our lives for sure and those who think there is going to be a time when everything returns to “normal”(whatever that is), I think those people are going to be a little disappointed. But to me, this is an exciting time to be alive as God unveils His hand in preparing the world for Jesus’ return. There is a lot of anger, fear and confusion all around us and people are hurting for sure. Global church growth, though is expanding like never before and people are finding hope in the only one who can really meet that need, Jesus. The church of Jesus Christ has strong, local leaders in place everywhere around the world and there is a renewed sense of the church’s mission and the need to fill the missional gaps (taking the gospel to the remaining unreached peoples of our world). Nothing, nothing will stop the advancement of the gospel as believers everywhere engage this broken world. God is on the move in every nation.

On the home front, we continue working with our friends and leaders through Zoom and other online venues. Our grandson and our daughter are still living with us, and Westley is attending in-person school (he got on the honor role this week (said the proud grandpa)), and we still enjoy connecting with David locally and Jonathan remotely.

Take care! Trust in the Lord and enjoy His work all around you and in your lives,

Mark & Elaine