

19 March 2022

***“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8***

***“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.” – Psalm 8:3-5***

Dear Friends,

I have found my morning time with the Lord has become more vital in recent days. If you read the news and commentary at all, you know in the world, things are not going well. Those of us who live in more affluent societies have had our secure bubbles burst. All over the world, people are hurting, they are angry and afraid, and not without good reason. If there ever was a more important time to look for answers and to re-examine lives, this may be it. Those of us who know Jesus personally, know He is the Savior and redeemer for all of us and we should never view that lightly. The early church knew much about persecution, pain and suffering and yet had such an exalted view of the Lord. In the midst of this turmoil, I believe God is calling on His children to lift their eyes to Him even more. We need to realize that in David’s words God made man just a little lower than the angels. We are a very special creation that He wants to have a personal relationship with and we need to live justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him.

Yes, the world is at war and really, it has been since Eve shared that fruit with Adam. The evil one desires to control and hurt the creation God loves. He has been defeated by the Son of God who gave us the gospel (good news) that set us free. Jesus is not a solution for mankind’s pain and bondage, He is the only solution and that is what is so exciting about Jesus’ sacrifice which we will celebrate in a few weeks. Yes, the world (our friends, family and neighbors) are suffering but there is great hope for them in the life of Jesus our Lord. Let us be faithful to help people understand God’s gift. There is no other hope for a helpless world.

Looking back on the past couple of years I think we all realize that the world has changed forever. Even in the way we minister to people, virtual engagement has become the norm rather than the exception and that is a challenge for those of us who are a bit more extroverted. I sit in on our new regional round table meetings via zoom and while I really enjoy them (although I have to say the ones that run from 10:30 pm to 3am are a bit of challenge), I really miss seeing my friends face to face. Some of our regions have been able to plan or have at least one face to face meeting so far, but it is challenging. Even though Covid has subsided a bit, we never know whether while the meeting is happening, something could cause everyone there to be put on immediate quarantine.

I am very encouraged though by the way our people have stepped up and found ways to continue reaching people who need Jesus. Globally, the church of Jesus is not helpless or hindered by global events. Each month we hear stories from all over about how friends and disciples are overcoming barriers in sharing Jesus.

This one from Mongolia is just an example:

*Campus ministry leaders in Mongolia were able to have an in-person student conference late last year. To invite participants, they ran ads on Facebook, targeting college students who lived nearby. About 150 students came to the meeting, and of those, 60 indicated decisions for Christ!*

Of course, there are many, many other stories like this that show the power of God and His Word to transform lives. Please pray for my friends in East Asia that I am joining virtually this week and also for Geoff and Yulius my brothers in South East Asia who are faithfully living out their ministry in the midst of lockdowns and other restrictions. In talking with Geoff last week, I found out that the Philippines still does not allow face-to-face schooling. This is tough on his kids.

On the personal front, thank you for praying for me and my knee recovery. The “official” physical therapy ended a couple weeks ago but I still need to do work on my own with weight machines at a local gym and with bike rides Elaine and I enjoy together. I am still experiencing a bit of pain but it is getting better with my biking. Here is a pic of me on my adult trike!



Westley continues in school nearby and we are blessed we live in a place he has been able to attend face-to-face. He is such an extrovert and needs time with other kids.

Lastly, I would like to ask you to please pray for us and especially Elaine. Her parents are in their 90's and her mother is undergoing cancer treatment. They are not in great health and we are hoping that Elaine can spend about one week a month with them in their home north of Atlanta.

We love and appreciate you so much! Thank you for partnering with us in serving the King of Kings,

*Mark & Elaine*