

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” – John 14:6

Dear Friends,

6 April 2023

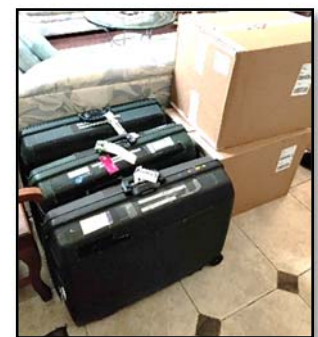
I have been reflecting on events in the US and the world lately, (I suspect many of us have, it is almost unavoidable). One recent event crystalized things for me. It happened in mid-March in the UK where a theologian was dismissed from his position at a Bible college and the administration was considering reporting him to the terrorism task force. His crime? Sending a tweet to the evangelical community about the sin of sexual perversion. His comment that spoke to me was *“This *is* a “Gospel issue”, by the way. If sin is no longer sin, we no longer need a Saviour.”* - Dr. Aaron Edwards

His words led me to ask the very simple question – What is sin and is it so important to recognize it in our lives? In the evangelism tool, the Four Spiritual Laws, which many of us use to share the gospel it states in Law 2: ***“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his own stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.***

Active rebellion or passive indifference. Considering our culture right now, doesn’t this resonate? Thinking about my attitudes led me to ponder the life of Jesus which we celebrate this week. Jesus, the Holy Son of God voluntarily left His home with the Father and came to rescue us from this sin which separated us from the God who loves us. In the garden He prayed that if there was any other way than the cross to restore us to the Father, please, let it be so. There wasn’t. Our sin had to be dealt with. It could not be ignored. Also, it is important to remember the authorities did not take Jesus’ life, He gave it. His life is a very expensive gift freely given to us who did nothing to deserve it. You can see why He is the Only way. Each day of Holy Week is important and tomorrow we remember the cross and His suffering for us. Thank God that is not the end of the story. On Sunday we celebrate His resurrection. THE day that changed everything forever for mankind and for us if we accept the gift. For those who believe on His name, every day is Easter. He is risen, yes, He is risen indeed!

This weekend a teammate and I will travel to Zambia, Africa for a team meeting with our leaders there. I am excited to be with those humble, godly leaders again and hopefully encourage them. In the five days we are there, we will focus on helping them think through effective ways of working with the 48 national movements in the Africa region.

On another note, there are four major languages spoken in the African region and the language barrier has been challenging to overcome. So, the leadership has asked me to be the “mule” that brings the audio and translation equipment needed to help address this. (it was just a little bigger than we thought it was going to be ☺)



Please pray for these three things:

- 37 hours of travel with a lot of baggage. Pray there are no problems with TSA, airlines and customs.
- For the conversations we will be having with our African leaders, that we would encourage them and help them think creatively.
- Lastly, for Elaine, April and Westley while I am gone.

You are a constant encouragement to us! May God bless you as you enjoy your walk toward eternity with the risen Savior.

Mark & Elaine