

Dear Friends,

How the world has changed in the last 4 weeks! As Al Mohler said in his blog today "What was last week's implausible hypothesis is now today's reality." (You are encouraged to read his helpful blog at <https://albertmohler.com/2020/03/16/the-humbling-of-civilization-praying-for-the-mercy-of-god>) Thankfully we know the Sovereign God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. When the world crumbles, it is a stark reminder to us believers that this world is not our home and our hope does not rest in the world or its systems. Our hope is in the LORD, the Creator of heaven and earth, who will one day reign in righteousness. Then the world will be free from plagues, wars, lawlessness, and political differences as His glory fills the whole earth!

Meanwhile, in this present turmoil, which is creating so much fear and instability, let us believers be shining lights in the world bearing the good news of the gospel and reflecting the love of God. There may be some very hard days ahead for some of us. Should they come, let us use them as opportunities to speak the truth and hope which are found only in the LORD Jesus Christ.

Furlough Report The first week of January, David visited supporters and family in NC, TN, AL and FL. The following 4 weeks we traveled through WA, OR, CA, and AZ. Shandy Joshua, the Director of Youth Ministries from our church in South Africa, joined us for the journey. She was able to share her testimony in several churches and Sunday schools. The LORD gave us safety and encouraging meetings. We are so blessed with our support team of churches and individuals! As God has done over and over again, the gifts received along the way perfectly covered our expenses! Thanks to all of you who made our trip such a blessing!

Encountering Influenza A When we returned to Florida, David was diagnosed with influenza "A" and a temperature of 106. He has spent 4 weeks regaining his strength, but still has a cough that doesn't want to go away. XRAYs have dismissed any pneumonia, so that that is good. In light of the COVID threat, he is self-quarantined. Thankfully, Virginia has remained healthy.

The Situation in South Africa As with much of the world, South Africa has called for emergency measures. The COVID-19 infection rate is minimal so far, but if it begins to spread in the tightly congested townships, there may be serious ramifications for many reasons. Pray that our South African pastors and missionaries will be kept safe and know how to respond to the situations they find themselves ministering to. We were anticipating the imminent arrival of new missionaries, a single lady, and a young family. They have had to abandon their plans as South Africa has cancelled all new visas and has restricted arrivals from the USA.

7 Rivers Outreach The tractor was purchased in January and is proving to be a great asset. Melusi and Charity Mpofu have settled into the life and work of the farm and are a blessing. We are so thankful to the LORD for providing this couple to help with the physical labor. Already we are seeing improvement in our macadamia trees and our new moringa trees. Pray specifically that our missionaries will not accidentally bring the coronavirus into this rural area. The community's living conditions, prevalence of TB among older members, and limited medical resources make the virus particularly dangerous.



Leadership Training The first course of the 1-year program at Grace Amanzimtoti, the Story of Hope, had 16 students. At least four of them came to a saving knowledge of Christ during the course! All the students have returned for the second course: Exploring the Old Testament. Pray that these important classes will not be interrupted by COVID-19.

Our Situation We are still staying with our children and enjoying our grandchildren. With all the uncertainty, we believe it is best for us to remain with family for the present. Once things settle back to a normalcy, we will look for our own housing. We thank the LORD for three \$10,000 gifts through ABWE for three South African ministries we work with: 7 Rivers Outreach, Crossroads Community of Christ (for a church building) and Christ Seminary Durban. These are a tremendous boost to our ministries. Personally, we would appreciate your prayer for our monthly support, as it is about \$500 below our requirement.

We are grateful for the donations to ABWE that allow us to keep serving and for all the prayers you take to the Father's throne.