



2nd Quarter 2020 Newsletter

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I want to Praise the Lord for the opportunity to write this newsletter. Let me explain. Twelve years ago I had open heart surgery and had my aorta valve replaced. They told me at the time of that surgery that the new tissue aorta valve would only last about ten years so as you can see, I got two additional years out of that valve. Six months ago I was diagnosed with having a failing aorta valve.

Over the last six months there has been a series of appointments and surgery dates but due to the PANDEMIC none of the dates happened. In March the local hospital stopped doing any kind of surgery other than patients with Coronavirus. Patients other than me (those needing cancer treatment and other kinds of medical attention) were told that we would have to wait.

But God intervened in a miraculous way. A very close friend and ministry partner has two of the very best heart surgeons in the Southeastern U.S. on his board, one of them did my first surgery. Both these surgeons do surgeries in China and North Korea and are very Godly men. My friend arranged for me to have lunch with the surgeon who did my first surgery. He is retired now but said that he would reach out to his partner and he did.

God caused one of the best heart surgeons in the U.S. to come to Ocala and perform my surgery, which was considered VERY HIGH RISK due to this being my second open heart surgery, the fact that I am 72 years old, diabetic, and having to deal with Coronavirus. I had my surgery on June 12th, was in the hospital three days, and am now home recovering. I get stronger with each day that passes. I will be at home for the next 6-8 weeks before going back to work. Please pray for Sandra and me as we work through this recovery. God bless you.



Physically & Spiritually Touching Lives

Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white for harvest! ~ John 4:35

Lloyd & Elaine Cook

Serving the Lord in Jamaica



“What is happening with You?” Is a common question to ask someone you haven’t seen in a while?

That is a question we have been getting a lot of lately. This is due to our recent circumstances: Lloyd having a mild operation for enlarged prostate a week ago; also because of the Covid-19 virus which Jamaica is facing, just like you are facing in the US, Europe and in other Caribbean countries; because Wednesday the 27th is Lloyd’s 78th birthday. All of these situations cause us to consider our health and our human mortality. We seek to keep “...our minds stayed on Thee, because (we) he trusteth in Thee.” (Isa. 26:3, and look up Psa.119:165) We are trying to keep trusting in the Lord, and to pay more attention to what we are ‘BEING’ rather than what we are ‘DOING’. But, what indeed do missionaries do (or BECOME) at the age of 78 and beyond?

DOING: Because of the COVID_19 pandemic, we here in Jamaica have been doing much the same things being done in other nations: we are counting how many are infected, how many have died, and how many have recovered and returned home. In Jamaica we have had “552 cases, nine deaths and 211 recoveries.” These numbers may seem small, and we thank God it is not worse, for a country with a population of just over 2.7 million where we all know everybody’s business, this daily focus on the numbers of sick, living and dead can cause much gloom and depression. No longer are we saying “Jamaica, No problem, Man!”

Our government has done a tremendous job of keeping control and reporting to the people on a daily basis all that is happening. It has even instituted a financial ‘CARE’ package to help persons and businesses that have been negatively affected, as was done in the US. All schools are closed down since March, and as graduation time comes around the College where Lloyd lectures will be having a ‘Virtual’ graduation.

Elaine’s outreach into Elementary and High Schools with her medical/moral talks to discourage early sexual activity, “Wait & Win” (similar to Southern Baptists’ “True Love Waits”) is also on hold; as is her ministry in the government remedial education program where she and her church gives financial, practical and motivational encouragement and help on a weekly basis. We look forward to the return to normal school activities when the school year begins after the summer vacation in September.

BEING: As mentioned earlier, we find that we are not DOING as much as we used to in ministry, but we seem to more focused on BEING, as we try to influence new converts, and ‘not yet mature believers’ to develop themselves spiritually in order to attract others to seek after the Lord in salvation and service. As a result we have few numbers to share, in terms of persons saved and converts discipled. We often work more with the few, rather than the many. So our ministries are now more of teaching and encouraging. There are also many who seem attracted to us for counsel, and so we find ourselves sharing of our past activities to encourage and inspire.

What we definitely are not ever going to consider is retirement. For one thing we are home in our own land. What would we do? Just sit down and do nothing? We have already seen the world, within the will of God. We thank you for having become our partners in prayer and financial support. We seek to BE all that God still wants us to BE, so that we can draw others closer to the Lord, until he shall call us home to be with Him in glory!

We trust that these do not seem like morbid thoughts, they are not meant to be. But we just wanted to share with you, our friends and family, that life is intended to be a preparation for the eternal future which God wants us to spend with Him, throughout all of eternity. So, while we await that time of ‘transfer’, let us do all we can to help others prepare and come to KNOW the Lord; and to fall in love with Him, and so become loving worshippers of Him in eternity in His presence.

The Good Samaritan Sponsorship Project with Dick & Barb Johnson

Serving the Lord in Uganda



The following is an excerpt from e-mail sent from Tadeo Katuramu.

“Thank you for my education all through Primary School - Hope School, Christ School, Bundibugyo; Nyakasura School, Ft. Portal and University in Kampala, Uganda and now Kabarak University in Kenya as Family Medicine Doctor. Thank you so much for helping me through all my wedding: Thanks to you and others I am now a married, wedded man. I know the finances involved were a lot, but you believed in me and never gave up on me. I will always be grateful. Carol, is a blessing from the Lord and I am blessed to have her as my wife and life-time friend. Thank you for all your prayers for us as a family. As you know I am currently at the hospital Chogoria still continuing with the program. We feel privileged to be continuing to work and care for patients at the hospital, even sometimes without a mask (because there are few masks), as for the rest of the programs at the University are put on hold. We may be at the frontier of the disease, but the Lord is sparing us for a greater good so I am thankful that we are not stopped from studying and continuing with the program. If all goes well our new semester will start in September. Please pray for us with all this uncertainty because of Covid-19. Our prayers are with you all, that the Lord almighty will keep you safe and continue to provide for you, for when you are provided for, we too are then provided for and the springs of living water may flow through from within you to us and to so many people in the world.”



*Tadeo & his Mom
(1999)*



*Tadeo, Carol & Adriel
(2020)*

Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

Serving the Lord in Zimbabwe

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“THE NEW NORMAL”

Many have been asking, “what would the new normal” look like after Covid-19? Some have ventured suggestions; others out of fear perhaps have hesitated to make predictions. But it is very probable countless believe the world as we knew it would be forever changed after this pandemic – whenever that is!

Whatever were our thoughts before, this past weekend has perhaps given us a taste of what it might look like here. Permit us to share.

As you know, we serve in Zimbabwe, Africa. This Country is rich in minerals, arable lands and many hard-working people. But its recent history shows serious political problems coupled with severe economic woes which have resulted, according to the UN, in more than half of its population of about fifteen million within the poverty range.

Zim has had a history of producing maize, soya and other grain and bean crops sufficient to feed her people and to export as well. But for this, much seasonal rain is necessary; and we have not had such rains for the last two years. Many farmers supplement the rains with irrigation but the water table has dropped so low that boreholes (motorized wells) have literally dried up. So they agonizingly continue to drill more and deeper wells. However, a reliable supply of electricity is necessary to keep the fields irrigated; and since this is often difficult to come by, farmers acquire generators or install elaborate solar systems to pump this precious liquid from deep within the earth onto the fields, if they are to expect a harvest at all.

Most homes, both urban and rural, also depend on these wells for domestic needs. For example, during the past five or so years, over a hundred new ones have been drilled within a two mile radius of our home.

We are one of three families on the property where we live, and have also experienced this scarcity of water which ended three weeks ago when the owners were able to drill well number five – the second in a year! We all met and gave thanks to God that we now had this liquid gold gushing through the ground and looked forward to nice hot baths and showers!

But this became a distant dream this past weekend as our power went and has been off for a few days. When there is a breakdown, a generator or a recently installed solar system is called into action but the following day the generator broke down in similar fashion. Okay, you say, “two down; one more to go”? This being our winter (and a brutal one at that!), we have become accustomed to very bright sunny days and rather cool evenings. Everyone looks forward to enjoying the sun in a country where buildings are not heated. However, this past week the sun has been hidden behind unseasonal and dark clouds and more weather of this kind is in the forecast. So, there goes the solar option! The public power supply was restored as we write but a part for the generator is still being sourced. Meanwhile, we continue under indefinite lock down.

The lack of electrical power also meant that we were without internet, our only means of maintaining contact with the persons we work with in our discipleship program.

Who would have thought these three sources of power would have failed us simultaneously? Could the lesson for us here be that we should not take things for granted, but must learn to live without what we would normally consider indispensable? May He grant us all grace to trust Him to live in resilience, one day at a time, in grateful submission to His will and purpose, whatever form the “new normal” takes – and all the more as we see the day of the Lord’s return approaching. And may we be daily encouraged by the knowledge that He is in perfect control and His timing flawless.

Alan & Pam May

Serving the Lord in Kenya



“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” ~ James 1:27

This has been our ministry’s signature scripture from its inception in 2005. Of course, our primary focus has been caring for orphans and abandoned children, yet these very children have taken the leadership in reaching out to widows in their community during this Covid-19 pandemic. When the folks at the GFE Children’s Home made it known that there were a number of widows in their village and in their church who are really struggling to feed their children at this time, gifts were given to facilitate a ministry to these widows. As the Lord said to Abraham in Genesis 12:2, “I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing,” the children and caregivers of the home likewise recognize that the Lord has blessed them to be a blessing to others.

Recently, the widows of Jua Kali village were invited to the GFE Children’s Home where they were served a meal, heard the gospel, received a word of encouragement, and were presented a gift of food staples to feed their own children. For the elderly and ill widows who could not physically attend the gathering, home visits were made. Please pray for the children and caregivers of the home to continue this ministry as they share the good news of Jesus Christ with folks in the village. Also, gifts of support to help with the feeding of the widows are greatly needed and appreciated.

The schools closed in mid-March due to the pandemic, so the high school students have all been home from their respective boarding schools. With all the pent-up energy from being isolated at the home compound, the children have been exercising, refurbishing their dining room tables, and working on farming projects among other things. They are planting vegetable crops and fruit trees, raising chickens, milking cows, and tending tilapia ponds. They are attempting to become more self-sustaining...a very difficult undertaking for a children’s home in Africa, yet they are trying.

The children and caregivers have remained healthy thus far in this pandemic, and for that we thank God. The quarantine and social restrictions have created many challenges for the home to find the food and supplies that they need. Please continue to pray for the Lord’s provision of all their needs. Pray for the rains to cooperate for the production of crops, and please pray for the children to somehow be able to resume their education.

Thank you for your continued prayers and gifts of support. The children and caregivers of the GFE Children’s Home express their deep love and gratitude for their sponsors and donors. They are faithful to pray for you...many of you by name, and they covet your prayers for them.



Faith Foundations International with Ray B. Nelson Serving the Lord in India



India is still under lock down to a large degree. You could go out for groceries for a couple of hours in the morning. If you were caught outside of your house after that you could be shot.

Joshua, Sharath's son, was in charge of feeding the poor, common laborers. Because they were not working they could not afford groceries so the church reached out. Joshua and the church members cooked food for 600 people every day. They had permission from the police to distribute the food to the needy.

It costs a little over \$100 dollars (US) for the food each day. The supporters in the United States of America provided funds to do the feeding. Some local residents also made some provisions for this project.

Two homes housing eight families burned down in a raging fire. Fortunately, no one was injured, but the families were left with nothing. Joshua arranged a care package for all of the families that included cooking utensils, food and clothing for the survivors. An opportunity for the church to reach out again and friends from the USA helped out. The church was one that Sharath has ministered at several times.

Vijayasree, a local girl from Razole, was working in Kuwait when her master contracted CVOID-19 Coronavirus. She was tested and the results were negative, praise the Lord!

Locust were headed for India through the country of Pakistan. Sharath had the church in Razole pray and they were stopped.

I was preparing to order my return plane ticket to India this month, but funds were not provided and India is still not receiving international travelers. In the meantime, I am still collecting funds from those the Lord is leading to give. If the Lord is speaking to your heart to support me and help me return to India when I can, please send your donations to Harvest International, Inc., PO Box 6690, Ocala, FL 34478.

Thank you so much for your continued support. The Lord loves a cheerful giver. Be blessed.



Camp Mahanaim with The Wray Family Rod, Debbie & Katie

Serving the Lord in Haiti



We live in uncertain times, but we are so thankful that Jesus is our Anchor through the storms of life! Here in Haiti, the covid-19 virus is spreading, and lock down continues, but we are keeping busy. We receive visitors each week who need medical care and help.



We share coconuts, breadfruit, and mangoes that are grown right here in the yard.



Deb and I spent several days repairing the gravel road that leads into the camp. Deb did a great job of driving the dump truck!



The local young people are very excited about volleyball, which is now 2 on 2, so as to respect social distancing policies. Thanks to the Grand Rapids, Michigan friends, we were able to change to using L.E.D fluorescent lights in the gym, so now we can use the gym on solar power without starting the generator. This has worked well for the 2 on 2 volleyball, as the gym is pretty much open all day, week days. As soon as 2 teams leave the yard, 2 more come in.

Thanks to each of you who sent Katie graduation wishes. Katie has taken up pottery and is really enjoying it. We found a clay deposit in the yard, so she has plenty of clay to work with. Katie's potter's wheel is a variable speed Dewalt drill connected to an old rear end from a 4 wheeler. The guys do a nice job of harvesting the clay and preparing it for use.



Thanks for praying for our young Sunday school helpers. They continue to do a good job of distributing "manna packs" to the all the homes in the poor areas near the Sunday school each week.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support and communication. It is always such an encouragement for us to hear from you! Katie made a short video showing the Sunday school helpers delivering manna packs. If you like you can watch it on YouTube at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=XVvPesZiapY&t=19s>.

Our son Tim continues to make videos also, and here is a link to a video he made about his friend Luke Eliason; <https://www.castanet.net/news/Kamloops/301290/VIDEO-Kamloops-man-showcases-paralyzed-friend-s-resilience>.

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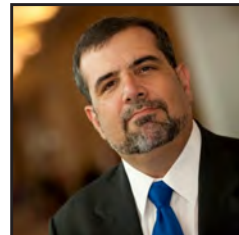
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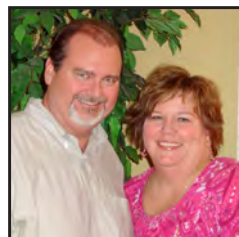
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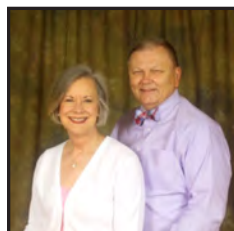
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