

# MISSIONS connection

March 25, 2020

Birthdays:

March 29 Brodie Rickman 29 Landon Hollis

**Thomas, Paige, Elizabeth &  
Jacob Queen**

*South Africa; Suite H17, P/Bag X9118, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, 3200*

We hope everyone receiving this update is well. We thank God we have been healthy so far and pray that continues. The Corona virus has arrived in South Africa. The government here is trying to decrease the spread of the virus here by initiating a lock down on all citizens to their homes for 21 days beginning Thursday at midnight. The hope is this will reduce the number of people who will contract the virus especially among the immuno-suppressed people in the community.

This means all ministry has to be suspended to protect the vulnerable. We are allowed to go to buy food or seek health care but otherwise we are not to leave our homes. We are not sure how this lockdown will be enforced; so far government directives have not been very clear.

***Here is how you can pray for South Africa and us this week:***

- Pray for the measures to be effective in decreasing the spread of the virus and reduce the death toll here.
- Pray for those who do contract the virus to recover. Pray for our health care worker's stamina and wisdom.
- Pray for this crisis to renew a passion for prayer and for studying God's word among the people.
- Pray for the church to reach out in compassion to those affected so they can see Jesus in action through us.
- Pray for protection for the health of the children we tutor, the patients we teach weekly and our translators.
- Pray for calm here and law & order to be obeyed.

We pray for our family back home to be well. We also hope our electricity and internet will work smoothly during this time so we can communicate with our family and friends back in the USA. This is also essential for Thomas as our church here is going to post some discipleship courses online during this time.

We know God can use this crisis to advance His kingdom. We pray for his guidance and wisdom so we can partner with Him to bring the lost into life everlasting in Jesus.

May the Lord bless and keep you.

**Hannah Kelly**

*(Mark & Suzanne Kelly's granddaughter)*

*Wycliffe Bible Translators*

*teaching Missionary Kids in Southeast Asia to support Bible Translation.*

**\*\* Hannah is traveling home to the states. Please pray for connecting flights and for Hannah's safety. Also pray for her family as they wait anxiously await her arrival.**

Praise:

Although things are a little crazy (as they are everywhere), we are mostly healthy here and have begun to self-quarantine. Of course the virus is a concern, but as far as general security goes, we are safe.

Prayer:

Ongoing:

- Betty's salvation- Please continue to pray that God would speak to her through this Bible study, and that I would be diligent to listen to the Holy Spirit. Although school is canceled for the kids, we will continue to have language class for now.

- Please keep praying that A would be able to know, believe, and walk in the truth. Pray that Jesus would guard her heart and her mind.

- That God would send another special education teacher and a guidance counselor for our school

Pray that, as an expatriate m community, our light for Jesus and the hope that we have would shine bright to those around us.

Thank you for praying so faithfully!

**Run for God:**

*Mitchell & Holly Hollis*

*PO Box 99, Varnell, GA 30756*

Thank you, church family, for your faithfulness in prayer. Please pray for our Instructors (Run for God Coaches) who are now unable to hold their classes as they try to find new and innovative ways to meet with their students. Some are very discouraged as is everyone. Some are using amazing resources to meet virtually, and some are staying in touch with their students as they train on their own.

We are so thankful that the "Run for God-Run Club" is up and running! (pardon the pun). Dean and Mitchell are working hard to get many who want contact with other runners virtually, encouraged and inspired through social media, podcasts, and emails. Pray as they continue to manoeuvre this uncharted territory to runners diligently spreading the gospel of Christ.

We continue to lean on Him for our refuge and strength.

Thank you Grove Level!

The Run for God Team

**Justin & Sara Silvers**

*Pastor at Buffalo Lick Baptist Church in Cadiz, KY*

Continue to pray for guidance and direction during this difficult time. Our governor has called all non-essential businesses to close for the time being. I believe that the place where I work will be open which is a good thing. We had a visitor this past weekend by the name of Vince; pray that God would lead him back to us. Pray for me as I lead Buffalo through this time and that I make the right decisions.

### **B.Jabc**

*serving in Northern Africa; 4551 Old Dalton Rd NE, Rome, GA 30165*

Team - We are working towards getting everyone to out of the country and here to the States for the time being. Ask that the logistics and needed approvals would work out. Ask that they would stay healthy and calm as they travel in stressful and less than ideal situations. Ask that the Father would provide places that are comfortable and sufficient for them as they quarantine and attempt to recuperate.

Platforms - Ask that the Father would continue to show his favor to these entities as they become reliant on national leadership and stewardship and lose the in country oversight that our team provides. Ask that this time would lead to greater confidence and faith in the Father to meet their needs and sustain their families. Ask that this would be an encouraging time of equipping and empowerment for our national brothers and sisters.

Church - Ask that during this time the Sparrow church would be salt and light to those that are fearful and in search of truth. Ask that they will continue to increase in boldness and wisdom as they tell and teach others. Ask that the leaders would empower the Body to minister to one another and to those around them.

Word - We have received news that the release of the Sparrow NT is scheduled for this coming summer. Ask that the Father would continue to provide favor and wisdom to those involved. Ask that the Father would be preparing the hearts of the Sparrow peoples to receive and believe the truth of the Son as they read about Him in their heart language. Ask that the Church will be wise and strategic in how they distribute and implement this new resource.

### **Josh & Kelsey Ellison**

*"Go and Make Ministries"*

*www.goandmakeministry.org*

For us it is asking some of those same prayers. How do we have community group yet be wise as far as the whole social distancing is concerned? How can we hold tight to the things that really matter and hold loosely things that are just comforts? How can we use our time even greater today in spreading the hope of Jesus?

To be honest I was starting to get too focused on finding out which model and solution was best and all of that. But God is reminding me that our focus shouldn't change from our mission that we've been given. He showed that tangibly today as Kelsey and the girls were playing in the front yard with music playing and she said more than 10 people came by and chatted. She even talked to one lady about our community group and said it is for all people regardless of whether they are Christian or know anything about Jesus and just want to know more. The lady said that was her. That she doesn't really know anything about Jesus but is wanting to.

That really encouraged me that God is still working. Even when we can't explain why this virus is allowed to happen, we can still see God at work. So pray for us that we don't lose focus or heart.

We will actually be coming to Georgia since I have to work remotely anyways. Right now the plan is to be in town starting on the week of April 5. Hopefully we will be able to see everyone!

### **Bryan & Brittany Kelly**

*Brittany is the preschool director at Severns Valley where Bryan is the pastor associate; 162 Dorothy Drive, 2G, Elizabethtown, KY 42701*

Please pray for us as we are adjusting to working from home and homeschooling. This has been a hard adjustment for us and our girls. We know that this is all in God's hands! We are trusting him with everything!

### **Chad & Emily Keeter**

*Navigators Ministry Staff 1415 Harmony Rd  
Knoxville, TN 37912*

In light of all that's going on, we've shifted all of our normal activities to video calling. My coworker Brian and I invited the freshman guys that we're connected to our first video Bible study. It was great to reconnect with the guys and see their interest in continuing to dig into the word together, even though the means of doing so isn't as ideal as being in person. Tomorrow night we're trying our first video Nav Night. We'll reconnect, have a message, and then discuss the message together. Would you pray for the Lord to give us favor with these students that we're trying to connect with and invest in? I'd also love your prayers as this week I'm officially stepping into the role of campus director for the UT Navigators. This whole year has been an extended "passing the baton", and I'm excited to officially step into this role. Please ask God to give me wisdom and favor with the staff and students in our ministry as I take on more leadership. Thank you for praying for us during these strange times! We love you and we're praying for you!

### **David, Kellie Crowe & Family**

*Bi-vocational pastor at Grace Fellowship in Abingdon VA,  
642 State Street, Bristol, TN 37620*

Crowe's — pray for us as we care for family (Tiffany, Alex, Doris and Carolyn). God in His goodness has been so good to us to help and provide.

Also, I have an endoscopy tomorrow. It has been scheduled for a while now. Of course there is apprehension to having it done right now, but I have asked the Lord to stop it on their end if there would be a problem in which I cannot see. I am trusting Him.

Grace — pray as we, like you, are doing ministry in new ways.

Business — We have shut down the Escape Game for a time. Our landlord has been very gracious. Pray for our employees as they will not be working for some time. Pray for the Lord to stretch out our savings to last the duration of this, so we do not have to incur debt.

We are prayer gathering through Zoom tonight.

Thank you. Lord bless.

David

### **Mark & Gynnette Yoho**

*Fourth Watch Ministry 840 Mountain Loop Rd NW, Sugar Valley, GA 30746*

Ezekiel 3:15, "Then I came to them of the captivity at Tel-abib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days." Ezekiel is one of my favorite prophets; I love the tenacity of the man of God. In this passage he has just seen the vision of the glory of God in the chariot of fire and brought back to the captivity and dropped down by the river Chebar. There he sits astonished, which means that he was dazed to the point of being powerless. I find in these days that I am pretty amazed at the things that are going on, not quite as much as Ezekiel. I remember praying a few weeks ago that God would give us a breakthrough in ministry this year. Now I don't doubt that God is going to answer that prayer, I just thought it would look different. As of today all of the preaching appointments and outreach opportunities have been canceled. I've spent a lot of time thinking and reflecting on where we are and where we go from here, but I don't have the answer just yet. These uncertain times just leave me astonished. Yet I know that God is the answer for uncertain times and astonished minds. Therefore I've spent a lot of time seeking Him for answers. I, like many of you, have said, "Maybe one of these days I'll do..." Well, the good news is I now have time to do those things. I've been poor on keeping up with technology, but this Sunday I will be teaching my first Sunday school class online. Also we are looking into ways to reach people and expand our ministry online. We're greatly challenged in this area yet optimistic, because God is the "Lifter up of mine head." Thanks for your prayers and support. We are greatly indebted to y'all for partnering with us on this journey. Blessings, Gynnette and Mark

**Brian & Ashley Jones**

*student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary;  
1138 Thornrose Wake Forest, NC 27587*

We were able to connect with a local endocrinologist that will partner with Dr Miller in Florida. She immediately increased her growth hormone dosage - so that is a huge praise. The local endo is even a Christian!!

One thing to pray for is our switching from our old insurance to new is now getting complicated. There are countless hrs each week I'm calling the new insurance and providers and pharmacies trying to sort out proof of diagnosis and letters of recommendation. Our poor providers have faxed over the same things a million times. Unfortunately, this new switch of insurance also means our bills are more costly now.

Overall- gross motor and communication are the biggest areas of prayer for Sophie Jane. Besides God doing a miracle and closing up the hole in her heart.

For Brian, he's getting a lot of over time at work which is awesome that God is providing but he's also very tired.

For all of us- to put Christ first and focus on each day one at a time. To have a heart of gratitude, especially as we are emotional as it gets close to Sophie's birthday- grieving what we thought her first year would be while also rejoicing for her being here and how much progress she has made! We love y'all and are SO thankful for you

**Michael & Holley & Ellis Richardson**

*Taking Seminary, 2704 Pine Manor Ln, Albany, GA 31707*

Thank you for faithfully continuing to lift us up. The COVID-19 virus has brought a number of changes to our life and ministry as most everyone has experienced some adjustments and setbacks. The general Albany area and surrounding counties have been some of the hardest hit in Georgia. Holley and Ellis have not left the house in the last couple of weeks. Classes and activities at ASU have been cancelled for the semester, so connecting with students has been much more challenging. Pray for opportunities to connect from a distance. Michael is continuing his seminary semester and should graduate in May. Pray for endurance to finish seminary well.

**Troy & Lille Poe**

*student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
422 English Station Way, Louisville, KY 40245*

Thank you for your prayers. They are much appreciated, definitely in these days.

Due to COVID-19, all of my classes have been moved to online for the rest of the semester. Please pray I am able to adjust to this change and still stay on top of my studies.

Lille and I are still able to go to work. Please pray for us to continue to have courage to share the gospel with others at work.

I pray you all are staying safe and doing well. Despite these hard times, we have hope in Jesus, who is above all our circumstances and understands us where we are in life.

**MISSIONS & MINISTRY PARTNERS**

**Tony Fuscillaro**

*Summer Missionary to Brazil, 3203  
Satcher Rd NW Dalton, GA 30721-  
7802*

**Luce Tertio**

*Missionary in Brazil searching for  
God's place for her to serve.*

**Kaylah Zerihun**

*Staff at Crossings Camp, 3043 Beal  
Rd, Hardin, KY 42048*

**Michelle Parham**

*2444 Britt David Rd, Columbus, GA  
30909*

**Kristen Bowen**

*950 Blue Gill Dr. Cohutta, GA 30710*

**KateAnne Ralston**

*Student at N. Georgia University,  
Dahlonega, GA  
Summer Staffer at Crossings Camp  
3083 Cedarmore Rd., Bagdad, KY*