

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2020

the boisvert update



“No eye has seen a God besides you, Who acts for those who wait for Him” (Isaiah 64:4).

Dear Praying Friends,

SOME TIME AGO, GOD gave me a message on “Waiting on God.” I was reminded of that message recently by one of John Piper’s sermons on the same topic. It was a very timely reminder for me in these troubling times.

Prophets Habakkuk and Isaiah spoke often to the nation of Israel about waiting on the Lord. Both referred to different stages of waiting with which we may identify today. First, there was “Waiting and Praying.” Habakkuk chapter one reveals how the author poured out his heart to God in prayer and then patiently waited for His response. Isaiah 31:1 warned Israel not to turn to Egypt for help against their enemies because in so doing they would be jumping ahead of the Lord and relying merely on their own solutions. Waiting allows time to pray and listen for the Lord’s leading. That is seeking and trusting Him!

Isaiah 30:15–16 gave Israel God’s prescription for a second stage:

“Waiting and Resting” in Him—even as Babylon was preparing to overrun Jerusalem! They were to wait, rest, and look for what God would do (compare Exodus 14:13–14). Habakkuk learned to wait as he figuratively climbed a watchtower to see what God would do next. Thus we should *pray, listen, wait, and rest* in the Lord, expecting Him to work, even if we don’t see what He is doing.

Besides praying and resting, waiting on God often involves *taking action*. Proverbs 21:31 says, “The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.” Cheryl and I have been trying hard to keep “the horse ready for the day of battle” as we wait on God to open the world back up for travel. I must confess I have not always been consistent in praying, waiting, and especially *resting* in expectation of what God might do in the midst of the global “covid crisis.” But we continue to “keep our horse ready for battle” in order to see the victory that will belong to the Lord.

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

As we have reported in previous *Boisvert Updates*, one of ways we’ve stayed “ready for battle” has been coordinating the relief funds that so many of you have given to aid the South Sudanese refugees. So far the distribution has gone well, to the glory of God. We are posting selected pictures (under the tab “Prayer Updates”) on our website, tri-m-boisverts.org, of relief efforts by South Sudanese leaders as well as comments and testimonies from the ones being ministered to.

WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING

Here is a brief update of the past five months. I share this that you might join us in praise and thanksgiving to our gracious, amazing God using *His* people to minister to *His* people (2 Corinthians 4:15). The outpouring of prayer support before the throne of grace and the financial assistance given in the midst of so many needs globally, have been amazing. We have been able to pass on enough funds to rescue more than 200 family units of South Sudanese refugees

for the past four months. Your combined support in prayer and finances has allowed many preachers (at least 55 that we know of) to keep ministering the Word of God in the 10 refugee camps outside of South Sudan—along with those ministering to the displaced peoples within those borders. However, everyone agrees that the majority of funds should go to assist the most desperate, some of whom are literally starving to death, and then to mothers who are nursing infants, to the handicapped, who are rejected by everyone, and to “widows indeed,” who often have children to feed but no outside help. All funds given went directly to a network of godly pastors, who shared open accountability in the distribution.

NEXT MODULE: MONGOLIA

We are anticipating that the Mongolians will be able to meet soon, as restrictions in their country are lifting, and only a few cases of COVID are being reported—a real answer to prayer! They are hoping to gather the last week of September for training. Two Mongolian leaders will each teach a course. Also, it now seems possible for me to teach a course that week via Zoom, Lord willing. We just need to nail down a few more electronics so the entire 25-member class can see and interact. In the meantime, I need to figure out how to do classroom projects and activities and prepare the translator to run them effectively without much interaction between the students and myself.

BORDERS ARE GRADUALLY OPENING!

Every one of our teaching sites is in position to continue the training without our immediate presence.

Tanzania is beginning to open up travel and gatherings within country. Training was scheduled to start in August but got moved up to the last week in July, which enabled leaders to hold a long-overdue graduation ceremony for some very patient students.

Uganda is still under restrictions, with most schools and markets still closed. However, the B.E.S.T. (Bukeeka Evangelical School of Theology) staff is preparing to be ready to call back students as soon as possible and is working hard to prepare materials and funds to restart the training. A few groups of students at various levels in the program are close to graduating.

Kenya has not allowed churches or schools to meet in many western areas. C.A.M.S.O.M. (Christ Army Mobile School of Ministry) had a number of setbacks in their training programs even before the shutdown, the main one centering around critics from a “rival” organization hoping to establish a competing training program in the same vicinity. They left and have never returned, but their unfounded and derogatory comments have still sadly undercut C.A.M.S.O.M.’s reputation. Please pray that they will be able to repair whatever damage has been done and to rebuild effectively.

LOOKING AHEAD

Especially in East Africa, funds are very limited, as prices for everything have spiked due to the local and global economic crisis. We are seeking to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ from our personal travel funds, which of course have not been used for the past several months, so that a certain degree of normalcy can be reestablished as soon as possible. The rebuilding process (of their training programs) may require future visits from us as soon as international travel opens again—all a part of making “the horses ready for the day of battle” as we wait on the Lord, Who gives the victory—and all because of your faithful partnership with our overseas coworkers and with us.

So, whether we are still in prayer and waiting, or resting in God’s provision, or busy as we wait, let us wait on the Lord with confidence that He will accomplish His purposes as we remain faithful. May we have a spirit of expectancy; that despite our labors, the final outcome is, even now, in the hands of the Lord.

And He *loves* to work for those who wait on Him!

The Boisvert Update is published bi-monthly as a service to interested friends and supporters. Boisvert’s sending church is Springville Baptist in Springville, Pennsylvania.

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