

the boisisvert update

MAY 2020



*“And God is able to make **all** grace abound to you so that having **all** sufficiency, in **all** things, at **all** times, you may abound in **every** good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).*



Social distancing is impossible in Uganda, but students are taking whatever precautions they can.

Dear Praying Friends,

ALTHOUGH WE’VE been able to update many of you on-line, we realize that some receiving our newsletter by mail are not able to get all those updates—so if some of the following content sounds familiar, you’ll know why.

Cheryl and I are very thankful for the “all” and “every” in 2 Corinthians 9:8: ALL grace; ALL sufficiency; ALL things; ALL times; in EVERY good work! I would like to share some stories of people actively *looking* for God’s grace and of those *seeing* and *testifying* of

God’s grace in this season of lock-downs and quarantines.

LOOKING FOR GOD’S GRACE

Our hearts are aching from the reports that are coming in from overseas. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed many of our brothers and sisters in difficult situations, to say the least. Most of our overseas coworkers report that their markets are completely closed and they are in lock-down. To be clearer about this, many lock-downs include military patrols that do not always ask questions before striking out to clear their streets. Then, if you have an “approved” reason

to be off your property, they let you pass.

The South Sudanese refugees are free to be out in the overcrowded camps, but the United Nations supplement program, which many depend upon for their total livelihood, has stopped. Many of the U. N. workers have returned to their native countries because of the crisis. One church leader summed it up this way:

“Life is very hard for the 23,000 refugees in the town of Koboko and the 10,000 refugees living in the town of Arua. They used to get food from the refugee camps in Yumbe, Koboko, and

Arua, but now with Corona Virus, they can't get their food. They are in trouble. Those who have been hurt the most include nursing women, people living with HIV/AIDS, and the elderly."

Recently I (Doug) was talking with one of our South Sudanese coworkers who has lived through the 25-year war with northern Sudan and the civil war that followed. This pastor had always started our conversations with "Praise the Lord; He is good," but in this particular phone call, he began with, "It is bad here—please continue to pray for us."

In a different location, someone else shared that there are 15 families that are facing starvation within a week. Another brother in Christ matter-of-factly reported that he and his family of 20 are fasting Monday through Friday.

We have assisted some. We continue to pray for the hardest hit ones who are unable to receive any other assistance. Join me in praying that we may be compassionate without being overwhelmed and not grow cold to their needs and situations! Pray also for our brothers and sisters, that they will be very aware of Jesus' presence with them through this trial (Psalm 91:15; 97:10).

THOSE SEEING AND TESTIFYING OF GOD'S GRACE

There is also *encouraging* news from overseas! We did report that one of our Tri-M partners shared how God is at work. One pastor, who in the past rejoiced to see just 20 people attend his church services, reported 1,700 hits in

just two weeks on his on-line service. In addition, there were more than 300 specific inquiries, which have been followed up with positive interaction! This kind of response would have been unheard of in that country before the COVID-19 quarantine. Pray for open hearts to the gospel of Jesus!

Another report from an Asian country indicated that "more and more people are realizing that money and possessions will not save them, and many churches have been started through telephone and website evangelism, which has been very effective! Church planting has been going on, and just last week—over a five-day period—we distributed almost 40,000 Bibles to new believers! The more difficult the environment, the more opportunities we have for ministry. Now it is very effective to share the Word of God with non-Christians in this country."

Pray that these recipients will read their new Bibles and that the Holy Spirit will give new life to them as they search the Scriptures.

We have also heard from a number of our supporting churches, which are sharing very creative ways to minister to their church families and reaching out to a very captive audience of non-churched people. Of course many of our neighbors are simply battling cabin fever, which is obviously not as deadly as COVID-19 fever. However, during the crisis, they have more time to stop and listen to preaching and teaching. It does not take an Information Technician to receive a message of hope on YouTube, TV, or the radio. Be sure to pray for your pastors to be very sensi-

tive to the Holy Spirit's leading during this time, and continue to support Jesus' work through your local church.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

As already mentioned, we are restricted from being able to send funds or materials to our locked-down brethren overseas. Pray for that situation to change in the near future!

For now, please join Cheryl and me in a time of prayer and fasting on Tuesdays and Thursdays in May—for one, two, or even three meals a day. If you are led to do this, please send me an e-mail (trimbois@yahoo.com), text, or letter (see our mailing address below) so I can encourage our East African and Asian brethren. I will be happy to share the names of these leaders and their specific prayer requests when you contact me.

As we ALL look to ALL grace abounding from our great God, may we ALL purpose through this difficult time of isolation to be creative and sensitive to the quiet nudging of the Holy Spirit and to openings to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially to those in greatest need. Thank you for being an active part in Jesus' ministry through Tri-M and the Boisverts. We love you and are grateful for your partnership!

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305 Watson Drive
Allen, Texas 75002

Please send all gifts to
Grace Global Ministries-Boisverts
P. O. Box 12
Cedarville, OH 45314