

The Yearend Boisvert Update



“It is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 4:15).



AS IT DID FOR EVERYONE—*globally*—2020 started off much as expected then suddenly detoured many of our plans! As we look at the past year in our rear-view mirror, there is obviously clear evidence of God at work through you, our partners in Tri-M, and through our overseas coworkers. We have often seen the Holy Spirit work in unexpected ways in the past, just as you have. It is always helpful to look back and put puzzle-pieces together from hindsight—which is always clearer than when events are initially unfolding. So how has God worked through you to bless both Cheryl and me and our other brethren overseas?

First, we are truly amazed at your responses to our updates that shared the effects of the pandemic overseas. The final figures are still being tallied, but as many faced starvation due to the lock-downs, especially among the South Sudanese in refugee camps, reports of unwed mothers being adopted into families and suicides being prevented have given hope to the hopeless. So many of you poured out



South Sudanese Refugee Camp

your hearts and shared your finances to help families that were in desperate need. All gifts were passed on to faithful coworkers who distributed them first to those with the greatest need in the name of Christ. Many of our graduates had already started Bible-centered churches in the camps, and their preaching provided what many have said was their only source of hope during these lock-downs. Then they became channels for distributing financial help. All of this opened many new doors for the gospel at a time when it was needed most. Thank you!

Because Tri-M was partnering directly with local groups of pastors who were forming their own training programs, training was not interrupted—even after international travel had

shut down. Once the countries reopened and allowed groups to meet, these local teachers continued teaching. These are the men who had begun teaching alongside us before the lock-downs, and it's been exciting to

see! We have heard that seven groups in three countries completed the training—all by last June. Though their graduations were disappointing to them and their families due to pandemic restrictions, they were the envy of other residential training programs that have not as yet been able to meet.

One amazing story that stood out to us is a group in South Sudan that could not flee to any of the refugee camps. This particular group had been surrounded by the fighting for so long that they had become isolated from most travel in or out of the region. (Doug was able to travel there a few times before the civil war became too intense and shut down most transportation.) One of the pastors dared to

make journeys to join up with Doug as he taught elsewhere. Their meetings allowed Doug to shepherd him through the courses being taught, and he returned with notes to teach others. The pandemic actually eased the guerrilla fighting in their region,



Doug Teaching with Pastor John

and Pastor John was able to immediately restart the teaching. This was one of the seven groups mentioned earlier to complete the training and graduate—after eight full years of often-interrupted modules. Before this year, Pastor John had financed most of the programs himself, but he ran out of resources even before the lock-downs. However, through a special gift from a particular couple, Pastor John was able to complete the training. We continue to coach and assist him as he disciples a recent graduate, who is now an assistant teacher for a new group of students.

Their entire village came out to celebrate this encouraging evidence of at least temporary relief from turmoil. The gospel has been clearly presented as hope for the hopeless. Now, even with such limited resources, churches and individual families are contributing as much as they are able to assist the teachers in expanding the training to other areas during this tentative window of opportunity.

ZOOMING INTO MONGOLIA

As reported in our previous *Update*, Doug was able to Zoom into the Mongolian training last September to teach a class for the group that should be able to graduate in April 2021, Lord willing. Doug and adjunct teacher Pastor Ron Berrus have scheduled another Zoom teaching session for February 2021. We will be each teaching two groups, while the Mongolian leaders teach in person, as usual. We are praying for borders and international travel to open in time for Doug to assist in next April's graduation. My teaching via Zoom has allowed Mongolian leaders to continue hosting the two groups of



Mongolian Zoom Meeting

students that are at different places in the curriculum, but it has also emphasized the need to train more Mongolian teachers in order to help secure the future of the program.

BEFORE WE RESUME TRAVEL

Teaching venues and programs other than in Mongolia do not have sufficient bandwidths or equipment to permit on-line (Zoom) teaching. Doug has been coaching local teachers

with extra teaching notes and phone conversations throughout the year. Some venues and programs have not yet been able to meet as groups, but we anticipate relaunching them as soon as the opportunity arrives.

Doug is assisting the Bukeeka Evangelical School of Theology (B.E.S.T.), in Uganda, to prepare documentation and curriculum to present to the government for approval. This has become increasingly important as Uganda is beginning to require all pastors to have approved certification indicating appropriate-level training. This will continue into 2021 as we wait for international travel to resume.

Continue to pray that we will know when and where to begin. Many programs in East Africa will have very limited funds to restart their programs. We hope to assist them in getting these back up and running in the quickest and most effective way possible. (All the programs were well on their way toward 100% local independence before the pandemic.)

We appreciate your love for Jesus! It has allowed us to represent Him to our overseas partners by supporting them, coaching them, and encouraging them to creatively face each new challenge.

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