

Partners in Prayer

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Dear Church Family,

As we write this letter, we wonder how each of our friends are doing. Are you healthy? Is your family okay? What is happening in your life? A year ago most of us didn't realize that passing through this COVID pandemic would be a marathon not a sprint. It is getting harder as the days go by. Marathon's are like that. It is the final part of a marathon which is the most important, and also the most taxing on us. That last thought is a paraphrase of the words of our provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry.

As we continue in this journey with COVID-19 it is becoming taxing on all of us. That includes missionaries. Some have been stranded in their home countries and can't get back to their places of ministry. Some are in their ministry locations and confronting very tight restrictions and multitudes of sick and dying people. Some of our missionaries are under incredible stress because of where they live and minister. One of our Chinese Ministry couples who live in the city of Lima, Peru, a city of over 10 million people, wrote this at the end of February.

The second wave of Covid has a great impact, affected especially by the lack of hospital beds and oxygen tanks. The government and private hospitals announced that, even with insurance, there are no more beds available for Covid patients.

In January we had a meeting with many of our World Team missionaries in the Americas Area. We met online for a couple of hours, sharing what God has been teaching us, sharing our praise items and prayer requests. Then we prayed for one another. It was a wonderful time to rejoice in the Lord's provision for all of us. The struggles of the past year have left many of our missionaries feeling isolated and alone. These online prayer times have become very important to them as they meet with other World Team missionaries.

For us, the pressure of these COVID times is mainly a matter of having to spend even more time in ministry as we try to make sure all our World Team Americas Area missionaries are doing well. That means extra e-mails and extra video conferences. ***Please remember in prayer missionaries you know who are facing very difficult living and ministry situations. Pray the Lord will use them wherever they minister.***

Sandra has continued leading a weekly ZOOM women's Bible study, Gary a weekly couples ZOOM Bible study, both for people in the church we attend in Chilliwack Sandra also meets via ZOOM with a group of World Team missionary women, Gary with World Team men. The World Team meetings have always been online, virtual meetings, so are no different than they have always been. ***Ask the Lord to guide us in these studies.***

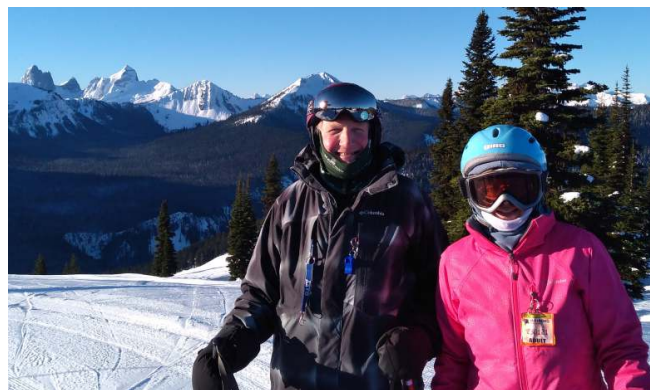
In February Gary completed an online course for those who facilitate online courses. When he has time, Gary serves as a facilitator for several of World Team's online courses. It was a challenge to find the time in his schedule to take the class and do the assignments, but really worthwhile to take the course.

Do you know someone who wants to be a missionary, but their education and gifting isn't that of a church planter? Right now World Team is looking for a Communications Assistant to help in our international office in Paris, France. Let us know if you would like more information. We do have lots of needs for church planters all around the world. In the Americas Area we need people to work in Trinidad, Manaus and Lima. All are church planting ministries. For the ministry in Lima we specifically need people who are Chinese, speak Mandarin or Cantonese and will learn Spanish at language school. Do you know someone the Lord is calling to become a missionary? Give them our contact information. ***Please pray with us that people would say "Yes" to the Lord as He calls them to ministry, and ask Him to raise up the people we need for Trinidad, Manaus and Lima.*** We have many ministry opportunities, but not enough missionaries. Do you remember Jesus' words in John 4:35? He said,

Do you not say, 'There are still four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest.


The winter is birthday time for several in our family. Sandra and Katrina have birthdays in January, Gary in February and Caitlyn and David's will be in March. We have celebrated birthdays the same way we celebrated Christmas, outside, on the front porch, socially distanced and masked, trying not to get too cold. It was strange, but also fun. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Gary's mom who lives near us in Chilliwack has had both her first and second COVID vaccinations.

How do we spend our Saturdays during the winter months? We ski. It is about an hour and a half to Manning Park Resort where we can enjoy the beautiful outdoors, have fun and get some exercise. Occasionally Christy and Christian join us for the day. In the summer, this is also one of the places where we camp and hike. ***Pray that as we spend time in this park we would have many opportunities to share the gospel with those we meet.***



Life has changed this year for everyone. We face restrictions and many new situations. Missionaries around the world face these same things. Some are in countries where COVID-19 is out of control and others are in areas which are not as bad. But it is a strain for everyone, for us and for you. The one, wonderful constant is Jesus. He knew this was coming, He knows what will occur. He is our Rock and our Anchor. We are thankful for our Lord's constant presence and help. We are also thankful for you, for each one who prays for us and for each one who helps with our financial support. We never forget that we are a team, ministering together to accomplish what Jesus wants to do through us. Thank you for being a part of our team.

In Jesus' love,


Gary and Sandra

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Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focussing on the unreached peoples of the world.