

Partners in Prayer

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Dear Church Family,

It is May, and our world is still turned upside down. Here where we live we still have many restrictions on what we can do, where we can go and who we can be with. These are challenging times. But it is in challenging times our faith is stretched and grows as we learn to depend upon our Lord. It is during challenging times that those who are listening to the Lord see new ways to minister and new ways to share with others. When everything begins to return to normal you will see churches which come out of this time of COVID stronger than they were before because of the lessons they learned, and others which will have slipped backwards.

The same holds true for our World Team missionaries and missionaries with all organizations. We have been excited to see our Americas Area missionaries prayerfully seek the Lord and find great ways to show His love even though they are under very tight restrictions. In our Area we have had no missionaries leave their place of ministry because of COVID. Those who were on home assignment in Canada or the USA have now returned to their ministry locations. Scarlet and Jordan, a new missionary couple, finished raising their support and have begun language school in Brazil. When finished, they will join our Manaus team. *Lift in prayer Scarlett and Jordan, asking the Lord to help them learn Portuguese and to learn the Brazilian culture.*

This picture is one which has become very familiar to most people this past year. ZOOM, TEAMS, Skype and other video conferencing software is something which missionaries have used for a long time. It is now familiar to most people we know as they talk with family and friends. This picture was taken at the beginning of May during the World Team Global leaders meetings. Usually a smaller group meets in person, but since it was a virtual meeting, we were able to invite many others to attend. We met for two to two and a half hours a day for three days. *Please pray as we in World Team implement the ideas and strategies decided upon during these meetings.*



Right now Gary is in the midst of preparing the World Team Cuba Report. It is mailed to many people and available online to anyone who wishes to read it. The articles are mainly written by people in our Los Pinos Nuevos denomination in Cuba. Gary translates them into English and then formats the report. Some times all goes smoothly, other times communications between us and Cuba becomes a problem and articles are delayed. *Please pray that the Lord will use this edition of the Cuba Report to prompt people to support and pray for ministry in Cuba.*

Gary has just finished taking one of our new World Team online education modules called "*Multiplying Communities of Disciples*," or "*Multiplication*" for short. It will be used by missionary teams as they minister around the world. Gary and several others were the guinea pigs for the Spanish and English versions of the course. As we took this course, we gave our comments on things to enhance or change to make the course even better. Next fall the course will be taken by our World Team missionaries in Spain, with Gary and others as facilitators. *Pray with us that this course will be used by the Lord to aid in training missionaries in World Team and other missions.*



Sandra's women's Bible Study is going well using ZOOM. Women who normally can't attend because they need to be near their children are able to attend this online virtual study. They meet on Monday evening for about an hour and a half to study and pray. Sandra has also managed to continue meeting one on one with women, but outdoors in parks, wearing masks, socially distanced. Those who live by themselves are lonely. They need friends to be with them. Sandra continues to spend time, outdoors, with those who need someone to visit with them. *Pray for Sandra as she spends much of her time serving others.*

Our couples study on Wednesday evenings is also virtual these days but we still do the things we have always done. We even had a virtual dinner together this winter. We also have our normal online studies and prayer times with World Team colleagues. These, of course, have always been done this way since we are separated by vast distances.

World Team has many opportunities for new church planting all around the world. You have read that on our side of the world we need people for teams in Lima, Manaus and in Trinidad. There are also needs for people in Europe, Africa and Asia. World Team is looking for a Communications Assistant to help in our international office in Paris, France. Please remind friends and pastors that missions everywhere need more workers. We all need people who are willing to give their lives to serve the Lord, to learn a new language and culture and share the good news of Jesus with others. *Please pray with us for more people, young and old, willing to serve as missionaries all around the world.*



We, our children and grandchildren have all remained healthy this past year. So has Gary's mom. Except for little Alex and Caitlynn, all of us have had our first COVID vaccinations. Gary's mom her second. We thank the Lord for watching over us. With all the precautions we take due to COVID regulations, we haven't even had colds this past year.

Thank you for your prayers for us and our ministry. We never, ever forget that without the prayers and financial support of our friends we would not be able to serve as we do. We truly are partners in prayer and we value our partnership in ministry with you. Thank you so much.

In Jesus' love,

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