



Volume 127

A Ministry Update Letter

August 2021

Christian Greetings!

Martin Luther, the Great Reformer, is quoted as saying that, “work, work from early until late, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.” I cannot say that I spend the first three hours in prayer every day, but I certainly agree that we have so much to do, that we need to make prayer a much higher priority in our life to accomplish the vision that the Lord put in our hearts. Sharon and I are grateful for those of you who pray for EPI!

UPDATE INDIA-India is slowly coming out of the second wave of Covid-19; the daily infection rate and death rate are both declining, but the nation is still under lockdown. The official Covid-19 figures in India grossly understate the true scale of the pandemic in the country. According to the New York Times, a more likely scenario is a minimum of 500 million infections and 1.6 million deaths during this short span of time!

The sad part is that millions of people in this nation are dying without knowing Christ and going to spend their eternity in hell. We have so much to do! My prayer is that believers everywhere will share this burden for the lost souls and pray to the Lord of the harvest. (excerpt taken-India Gospel Mission).

UPDATE WESTERN AFRICA-Charles Clawson and I have just returned from Monrovia, Liberia where we met with 13 pastors from Liberia, Sierre Leone, Ghana, and Nigeria. The training program went very well and we had a great time of training, fellowshiping, and getting to know these committed evangelist. As always, we left uplifted and challenged by their “great faith”. Two days before the end of our training, we had to travel across Monrovia to a Covid testing facility for our return trip covid test, which took all morning and into the afternoon. Then the test results did not come back to us until the morning of our departure. Charles’s test results showed negative, however my test results came back POSITIVE. Needless-to-say, before I ever booked the flight, I knew there was the possibility of getting a “positive” test result in Africa. After spending 2 hours on hold with Delta Airlines, and unable to re-book my flight, I decided to pack my bags and head for the airport. I was pretty sure if I was supposed to be on the flight, GOD WOULD MAKE A WAY! As it turned out, every time they asked me for my COVID TEST, I presented the copy of the covid test that had been done 2 days before I departed from the U.S. All they were looking for was the word NEGATIVE. **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED....15 MORE BACKPACKS IN AFRICA!**

UPDATE EASTERN AFRICA-Wilson Mwanza, our Director in Eastern Zambia, flew to Monrovia, Liberia to assist me with the training and also to pick up 2 backpacks and some replacement equipment for the Jesus film backpacks in Zambia. Some of the backpacks have been in Zambia since 2014. We had 3 batteries needing replacing and one projector. All and all, we have been very pleased with the durability of the Jesus film backpacks and we are grateful to RENEW OUTREACH who developed them and CRU MINISTRY who provides most of our backpacks.

UPDATE UPCOMING TRIPS-**PRAY with us** as make plans for at least one more trip (possibly two) in 2021. We need to travel to UGANDA as we will be evaluating the possibility of EXPANDING MINISTRY in this “dark” country! We also need to make another trip to TANZANIA for additional training for the pastor’s who oversee 22 backpacks, as well as, take replacement parts for backpacks in Burundi and Rwanda. Sharon and I send our love!.....JOHN