

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

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Thinking Pandemic Globally

Bethel partners with missionaries in 5 countries around the world. Several other countries and areas are impacted as well through other ministries we support. But for the sake of thinking pandemic globally, consider how the pandemic has affected our missionary partners in Ireland, Ecuador, France, New Zealand and Chad.

Evaluating or comparing the number of infected and deaths in each of these 5 countries can be misleading for various reasons. It is interesting that in recent updates (May-July) from the Reeds (Ireland), Armstrong's and Pepe's (France), Rieger's (Ecuador), Cooper's (New Zealand), and the Hutt's (Chad), all mentioned lockdowns, levels of guidelines, fear and a slow down of ministry efforts. Each also reported and asked for prayer regarding not only the impact on ministry but also for their family and personal adjustments. The Rieger's, Armstrong's and Pepe's are in the US right now either waiting to get back to their ministry or having come back to report and rest.

From Justin and Sarah Hutts in Chad, North Central Africa . . . while we received this update a few months ago, it quite effectively helps us understand what missionaries in an isolated setting are facing. Chad has only 1000 confirmed cases with 75 deaths according to an online virus mapping site. Here's what Justin and Sarah wrote back in April.

These past few weeks you've likely tasted isolation, seen anxiety over health concerns, felt the void from a lack of social interaction, even become parched with a need of spiritual community. If so, then you are not alone. In fact, this is a normal everyday experience for many missionaries in Chad and around the world, especially in hard to reach places.

Chad, Africa is one of the most remote places on earth. Almost everything is exported except oil and camels. It is completely landlocked and global news barely seems to touch this part of the world. However, for 2-weeks, Chad has been locked down like much of the world. No flights are arriving or departing. All borders are closed. All shops except those with food are shutdown. Each major roadway has a stern military presence. And people are fearful because the current COVID-19 cases have up-ticked to 7 persons.

Like us, you probably know people affected by this pandemic. We personally know missionary spouses and families separated by continents due to travel restrictions before the lock down. A 27-year old colleague in North Africa passed away while under quarantine due to complications with cystic fibrosis. Dozens of expats are waiting for an evacuation flight that has been canceled numerous times. While we feel safe and sound in our Chadian home, we pray the situation doesn't lead to civil unrest or anti-western sentiment, but rather pray for an outpouring response towards the gospel.

Pray for God's mercy upon the 14 million people living in Chad to find a contagious hope in the gospel. Pray for many to find Peace while they wait.

Hey Bethel Church family, remember these and other precious gospel partners in prayer. Be encouraged and challenged by them. Follow their model of life and ministry as they follow Christ! If you would like to receive regular updates from our missionaries, let us know in the office and we will help you connect.

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What about the offering?

We encourage you to continue giving generously to the Lord's work here at Bethel. Here are some different options available :

- Mail
- Bank bill pay
- Online giving through the website
- Offering box is available at the back of the sanctuary.

Office Hours:

We will be in the office Monday ~ Wednesday from 10am-3pm, while still working hours from home.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Wednesday, August 4, Zoom Prayer Meeting @ 7:00 pm**
- **Sunday, August 9 service at 9:15 am; Baby Dedication, Back to School Recognition & Prayer, Junior Church; Nursery will be available**
- **Sunday, August 9 service at 11:15 am; Baby Dedication, Back to School Recognition & Prayer; Nursery will be available**
- **Drive-in option will be available at BOTH services**
- **Sermon audio available on website by noon on Sunday**
- **Monday, August 10, Men's Meeting @ 8:30 pm**
- **Wednesday, August 12, Church Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm**
- No sign-ups are necessary as we will be offering the Drive-in option at both services. If seating is not available, you can participate in your vehicle by radio. We are still asking that you wear your mask into the service and mask when you are leaving the service, when social distancing is not attainable. Also, please consider wearing a mask when singing; this is recommended but not required.

From Lynford & Sharon Regier:

God is faithful & His plan is perfect. There can be no greater assurance for every believer. The times of crisis bring fear into the hearts of many people. The wonderful future that a believer possesses brings an amazing joy into their hearts, while the unbeliever continues to search for answers to questions they don't want to ask. The situation in Ecuador is dire. Most have returned to work but receive 50% of their salary, because business owners do not yet have the income to pay their full salary. A full month of work receives \$195; after paying utilities & transportation, that leaves very little for food for the family. The average Ecuadorian will say, "This is better than nothing, because nothing is what we have received for the 3 months prior". Please continue to pray for the president and the people of Ecuador.



Looking for an opportunity to serve?

We are searching for folks/families to serve in these areas over the next couple of months:

- ❖ Greeters~no hand shaking, but are asking for help in cleaning between services
- ❖ Ushers~no passing out of materials, but helping folks to find seating
- ❖ Parking Lot Attendants~to greet those worshipping in their cars & hand out sermon notes

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING IN ANY OF THESE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT MELODY. THANKS FOR SERVING!

PRAYER

Pray for Curt Kramer, as he is recovering from his surgery for knee-replacement. Pray for patience, and for a quick & full recovery.

Be in prayer for those families who will be sending their children to school, whether it be public school or home school or college. Pray for wisdom in the uncertainties of planning from day to day. Pray for wisdom & patience for administrators, teachers, parents & kids as they seek to provide the best education for our kids.

Please continue in prayer for the leadership of BBC as they strive to provide effective & fruitful gatherings in a safe & cautious way. Pray for each other, as there are many who are not getting regular exposure to the ministry of the Word & fellowship that is so essential.