

Rejoicing From the Hills

"The little hills rejoice on every side."

-Psalm 65:12b-

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A Publication of the North Hills Bible Church

July, August, September 2020

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Due to the uncertainty of things in our country we will not be having the Missions Conference as usual. We will still have the church picnic on Saturday, September 19 and have a missionary speak on Sunday, but we will not be having Monday through Wednesday meetings this year. 📖

Our Church Website

www.northhillsbiblechurch.org

On our church website you can find out all 'about' us: our history, our times of services, our doctrine and convictions, and a link to an explanation of our ministries.

On the 'news' link a calendar of events and announcements are kept current along with a listing of special events.

If you click on the 'Resources' link you will find this issue of *Rejoicing From the Hills* and previous issues with the addition of pictures of our various church activities. It is here too that you will find many of Pastor Moss's writings on a wide variety of Christian interest topics available for online reading and download. Messages preached at North Hills Bible Church are available on audio disc or for download as MP3 files. Many

Sunday School lessons, Bible Classes, and special programs are available.

New under 'Resources' - if you click on 'video' you will see Sunday School lessons for children by Mrs. Moss. These are listed by date and title.

Servant's Heart Camp



As always, we at Servant's Heart Camp are profoundly concerned about the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our campers and their families. Because of our current situations, we will be spending some additional effort on the physical health of the campers and their families without diminishing their other needs.

As of May 15 we will plan on the June camps. If, however, new information becomes available, or if our regulatory authorities implement some different regulations, we plan to update this document.

Teen Camp 1 (June 15 – 20) –

Continue as scheduled with modifications

Junior Camp 1 (June 22 – 26) –

Continue as scheduled with modifications.

Who should come?

You should NOT come if you:

- Have been diagnosed with COVID- 19
- Are waiting for the results of a COVID- 19 test
- Have cough, fever, or shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- Recently had contact with a person with COVID-19
- Are fearful or apprehensive about coming to camp.

If any of the above applies to you, please do not come to camp. If you contact us, we can give you a full refund of your registration fee.

We will continue to limit our campers to 50 each week. With the counselor and junior counselors each team should have about 20 people, but certainly less than 25 per team.

We will see how the rest of the summer unfolds for the following camps.

Teen weeks: July 6-11,

July 20-25,

July 27- Aug. 1

Juniors who have completed

grades 2 through 6:

July 13-17.

Young at Heart Day for ages 55

and over is August 3.

Family Camps on

June 29 - July 1

July 2 - 4.

For more information you can send them an email at info@shcm.org or check the web page at www.shcm.org or call (717)808-7992, or write to Servant's Heart Camp P.O. Box 244 Ramey, PA 16671.

A GOSPEL MESSAGE FOR YOU

Have you asked Jesus Christ to save you? If not, will you accept Him as your Saviour now? The following will explain what you need to do.

1. **ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER.** *The Bible says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23*
2. **KNOW THAT GOD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED FOR YOUR SALVATION.** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16*
3. **KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF.** *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." Titus 3:5a*
4. **REPENT OF YOUR SIN.** *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of." II Corinthians 7:10. "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3*
5. **ASK JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE YOU.** *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **SAVED**." Romans 10:13. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be **SAVED**." Acts 16:31*
6. **CONFESS JESUS BEFORE MEN.** *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead thou shalt be **SAVED**. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10*

If you have any questions or would like further spiritual help, please contact us at the North Hills Bible Church. Our phone number is 757-1316.

Library News

by Brenda Hamme, Librarian

When I wrote the last Rejoicing From the Hills article the beginning of March, I had no idea what we took for granted in all areas of our lives would be drastically altered in a matter of days due to COVID-19 and for such a prolonged period of time. This included the cancellation of all church services and activities for over two and a half months. While Morning Worship and Prayer Meeting have resumed, the library remains closed indefinitely.

When I can again serve our church family, the new items featured in my last article will finally be available. Meanwhile, I thought this might be a good time to remind you that the library has something for everyone, whether you're interested in learning more about the Bible, developing Christian character, strengthening a biblical position, exploring the past, increasing your knowledge about missions, or simply looking to "get away" for a while.

When the library can reopen, there are books, CDs, and DVDs for all age groups and interests. Plan to stop in to see what is available – Bible study aids, devotionals, biographies, fiction, and much more.

Although I view the ministry of the library as one which should assist in the spiritual growth of the congregation, none of its books, CDs, or DVDs should ever be used as a substitute for the Bible and its place in our lives. While the thoughts and opinions of others may help us in our walk with the Lord, they should always be evaluated on the basis of scriptural truth which comes only through reading, studying, and knowing God's Word.

If you have library materials at home which you checked out earlier this year, feel free to return them to me even though the library is not open.

Note: There will be no Sunday School Homeschool or Youth articles in this issue since these activities have not been held this past quarter.

Rejoicing From The Hills

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Our Purpose

Soul winning at home and abroad
Bible teaching conducive
to Christian Living

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Is It Ever Right To Do Wrong?

When we Christians find ourselves dealing with issues which are related to government actions or policies, one of the questions we must confront is this: Is it ever right to do wrong?

Of course, the overriding principle of Scripture is that obedience to God always comes first.

Acts 5:29 states it clearly for us: *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.* But the Bible clearly teaches that Christians are also to be submitted to civil authorities. In such passages as Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-14, we are instructed by God to be obedient citizens.

1 Peter 2:13-14 says,

13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;
14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

There is no qualification in this text that suggests we must like every ordinance or agree with every ordinance. Regardless, we are to submit ourselves to every ordinance. The only qualification that would dictate our refusal to submit to any ordinances of civil government would be that such a law would REQUIRE us to violate the Word of God. But not liking a law on the basis of political preference would not be sufficient reason for a Christian to refuse to submit to that law.

One thing that is legal in the United States that Christians strongly disagree with is abortion. We do not like this ordinance. We do not agree with this ordinance. But the ordinance that allows women to have abortions does not require anyone to have an abortion. Therefore, the legality of abortion does not require Christians to participate. Just because we do not agree with this ordinance does not give us a license to burn down abortion clinics or violate certain judicially mandated "safe spaces". There are other ways within the legal system to register our objections. By going through the legislative and judicial processes to try to get the laws changed would be a respectful way

to submit ourselves to the ordinances of man while disagreeing with a law we consider to be immoral.

Let's consider Romans 13:1-7.

Romans 13:1

1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

No one can lead a nation or be the controlling power of a government without God allowing him to do so. That is, "allow" as opposed to "approve". Surely, God does not approve of ungodly men who have wielded governmental power in an ungodly manner. But God allows such men to rule because what they will do somehow fits into His ultimate Divine will. It may be for judgment or for some other reason that we cannot discern in our finite minds, but God always knows what He is doing and He is always right.

It is not for any man, including God's people, to object to God's choice for governmental power. According to this verse of Scripture, we are to be subject to whoever God ordains for governmental authority regardless of their spiritual condition. Remember how the Apostle Paul appealed to Caesar, even though Caesar Nero was an ungodly man.

Romans 13:2

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Then God goes one step further. He says that any man who resists the authority of civil government officials is actually resisting God Himself. This is a logical conclusion. If God ordained the powers that be, then resisting those powers is the same as objecting to God's authority in ordaining those officials to have power. Resisting the civil authorities that God has put in power is the same as criticizing God for the choice He made.

In modern terms, this word resistance would be very much akin to the concept of civil disobedience. The Biblical word means "to set oneself in battle against." Civil disobedience refers to "a refusal to obey a law to which one objects." The effect of civil disobedience and the Biblical word "resistance" is very much the same. An individual or a group pit themselves against civil

authorities because they do not like or agree with the laws they have enacted.

God says that such resistance will have some serious consequences. The word “damnation” in verse 2 is a term suggesting the potential of a severe penalty issued by a judge in a court of law. Such a penalty would not be considered persecution of a Christian if the Christian, who is guilty of resistance/civil disobedience, had no legitimate Biblical reason for refusing to obey a civil law.

Romans 13:3

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

As long as a person does good, he has nothing to fear from governmental authorities. It is only those who do evil that have something to fear. For a Christian, this means that if no civil law requires them to actively disobey the Word of God, they are morally and spiritually obligated to submit themselves to every ordinance of man (1 Peter 2:13). And, if they do so, they have nothing to fear from civil authorities. This means that every Christian must carefully distinguish between civil laws that require us to disobey God’s Word and those that simply seem to be unacceptable to human sensibilities.

In the case of the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020, asking churches not to conduct in-person church services for health reasons is very different than forbidding churches from preaching the truth of the Bible. In fact, in most places here in the United States, churches have been encouraged to continue to get their message out through alternative means. This situation hardly presents itself as a reason for Christians to resist the powers that be. In fact, many churches during the time of the shut down of the country, were able to reach more people by way of internet broadcasts than they every did with their in person church services.

Romans 13:4

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Sometimes Christians use their Christianity as a cover for underlying character flaws. They claim persecution for situations in which they are actually guilty of unbiblical behavior. For example, one street preacher claimed he was arrested for preaching the gospel, when in fact, he was arrested for disturbing the peace. He was preaching very loudly just outside a small business and he was preaching with such volume that the business owner could not hear a customer trying to talk to him on the phone. The street preacher was asked to move and preach elsewhere, but he refused. This kind of behavior was arrogant and irresponsible; but instead of admitting to any wrong doing, the preacher claimed he was being persecuted.

While it is true that we, as Christians, are ambassadors for Christ; we do not qualify for diplomatic immunity like the representatives of human governments enjoy when serving in foreign lands. Diplomatic immunity is a principle of international law that provides foreign diplomats with a degree of protection from criminal or civil prosecution under the laws of the countries hosting them. The Vienna Convention, which has been agreed to by 187 countries, states that all “diplomatic agents” including “the members of the diplomatic staff . . . of the mission” should be granted “immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving state.” Perhaps this is because the laws are so different between some countries, that inadvertent and unintentional acts by visiting diplomats which violate local laws could create all kinds of international crises. Diplomatic immunity was never intended to be a license to be blatantly unlawful as a diplomatic guest.

Being a Christian does not excuse us from respecting the laws of men even if those laws seem unreasonable, but do not require us to violate God’s Word.

Romans 13:5

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Christians are to be subject to every ordinance of man that does not require us to violate God’s Word, not only because there are consequences, but also for the sake of our conscience before God. A similar principle is described for us regarding our conduct as employees.

Ephesians 6:5-7

5 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

Our primary objective in all we do is to please our Savior. We are to be diligent at our jobs because this is the best possible way in which we can be a good testimony for Christ. In the same way, we are to be diligent citizens, submitting ourselves respectfully to civil authorities because this is the best way we can be a good testimony for Christ. In normal human society, such conduct, while pleasing Christ, will also please men.

Romans 13:6

6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Therefore, it is also our duty to pay our taxes and support human government.

Romans 13:7

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

And, it is also our duty as ambassadors for Christ to show proper respect for those whom God has ordained as the powers that be.

Having said all that, the glitch comes when civil governments impose upon man regulations that require Christians to violate God's law.

We are God's people and our first allegiance is to the One who created us and saved us, and not to men. In the words of the Apostles in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than man."

But how do we know when to disobey men in order to preserve our obedience to God? The answer comes from a flaw in the question. The Bible clearly teaches that **we should never look for an opportunity to disobey men.** Instead, **our concentration should be in always obeying God.** If I am ever fined or imprisoned for obeying God, that is persecution, and

it is the suffering to which I am called as a child of God. God will use such times in my life to bring me to maturity in Him and to the praise of His glory. On the other hand, at any time I am purposely disobeying a civil law that is not in violation of God's law, I am guilty of disobeying God Himself. (Romans 13:2).

In Pennsylvania, the Legislature passed a law some years ago and in that law the Governor was given the authority to declare a state of disaster. As long as that declaration of disaster would be in effect, according to Title 35, Chapter 73 of the Pennsylvania Code, "the Governor may issue, amend and rescind executive orders, proclamations and regulations **which shall have the force and effect of law.**"

So, when the governor of Pennsylvania issued an executive order that told the citizens of Pennsylvania that they were required to wear masks to enter a business, Christians might not have liked it, but it was the law for as long as the state of disaster was in effect. There is nothing in the Bible about wearing masks for health reasons. So, if the governor issues such an executive order, we as Christians ought to submit to this ordinance of man and do so pleasantly. In the same way, if the Governor of Pennsylvania issued an executive order during a declared state of disaster that prohibited us from sitting in a restaurant to eat, we might not like it, but it is the law for as long as the state of disaster is in effect. And there is nothing in the Bible about a Christian having a divine right to sit in a restaurant to eat. So we ought to submit to this ordinance of man and do so pleasantly.

During the pandemic of 2020, some believed that our government ordered us to violate the Biblical mandate to have church services. Indeed, Hebrews 10:25 admonishes us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. But here in Pennsylvania, the Governor's executive orders specifically exempted churches from regulations prohibiting gatherings. He strongly advised that we comply for the sake of people's health and we voluntarily complied. When the Governor's executive order mandated for us to begin again to have in person services at our church facilities, he advised that we limit our attendance to 50 percent capacity of our facility and that we follow the social distancing guidelines. This in no way prohibited us from obeying Hebrews 10:25. In fact, we have a responsibility as the church to be considerate of the health needs of all our folks and especially those among us who are the most vulnerable. We could still meet together and at the same time do it in a way that cooperated with government recommendations.

I agree that righteous citizens should do everything appropriately and legally possible to get the attention of their rulers to encourage them to exercise their God given responsibilities in a responsible fashion. However, one never receives a favorable response from their government by disobedience or by a rebellious attitude. Romans 13:3 says, “do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same.” Rebellious attitudes and actions can be interpreted by civil authorities in only one way – as rebellion against its authority. God has ordered us to submit ourselves to every ordinance of man (1 Peter 2:13). If the citizenry wants government to change, it must do so by submitting to the due process of the law, thus obtaining the praise and positive attention of their rulers by doing good (Roman 13:2).

Christians being angry about what we are being submitted to is not helping the cause of our testimony for Christ. There have been plenty of believers in other times and in other countries who have been subjected to far worse conditions than we are facing. In fact, our church during the pandemic shut-down reached far more people with the Word of God through our online videos than we ever did within the walls of our church building. Even though we were not able to physically meet together, the Word of God was not bound.

What would be a legitimate reason for Christians to participate in civil disobedience?

The perfect example is found in Acts chapter 5, where we have the statement in verse 29, “We ought to obey God rather than men.” Peter and the other apostles were sharply rebuked by the Jewish authorities for preaching in the name of Jesus.

Acts 5:25-28

25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

27 And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them,

28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.

Peter gave his defense and the council had a

discussion about these matters. Then came this severe charge to the apostles by the Jewish authorities.

Acts 5:40

40 and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

How did the apostles react? The Jewish authorities were requiring them to disobey God. So they had no choice. They disobeyed man.

Acts 5:14-15

41 And they [the apostles] departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

In the course of obeying God consistently, it is possible to be persecuted unjustly by government officials.

There are several cases of this in the Bible. Joseph refused to participate in immorality as an act of obedience to God, but was imprisoned as a falsely accused man. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow to a false god as an act of obeying God, but they were unjustly condemned to death for doing so. Daniel continued to pray to God as an act of civil disobedience to a law that forbid him to do so, and was unjustly condemned to death as a result. John the Baptist told the truth about King Herod’s immoral life style and was unjustly imprisoned and beheaded for doing so. In each and every case recorded in the Bible in which any of God’s people were punished by civil government for civil disobedience, it was because they were properly obeying God and not because they were resisting a civil law they did not like. In fact, in the case of the Apostle Paul, the civil authorities even declared that Paul had broken no laws.

The Roman Centurion who had arrested Paul sent the following letter to Governor Felix.

Acts 23:29

26 Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix *sendeth* greeting.

27 This man was taken of the Jews, and should have been killed of them: then came I with an army, and rescued him, having understood that he was a Roman.

28 And when I would have known the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him forth into their council:

29 Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of their law, **but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds.**

30 And when it was told me how that the Jews laid wait for the man, I sent straightway to thee, and gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what *they had* against him. Farewell.

King Agrippa and Governor Festus also agreed with this assessment.

Acts 26:31

30 And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

But in spite of all of that, Paul continued to cooperate fully with the civil authorities and made no angry or belligerent show of disgust at his being detained.

If we as Christians are ever arrested or harassed by civil authorities for obeying God and doing right, we are given two courses to follow,

(1) Willingly submit to the due process of law, using the law to its fullest advantages, and through doing good receive the praise of the rulers. (2) Cheerfully submit to persecution to which the righteous are called, acknowledging the potential gain to the kingdom of God because we have suffered well.

Matthew 5:10-12

10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

1 Peter 2:19-23

19 For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

There are times when civil disobedience will be necessary For Christians.

But otherwise, it is not a Christian's place to adopt a rebellious attitude toward the government and break laws which do not need to be broken in order to maintain obedience to God. Unnecessary civil disobedience on the part of Christians causes them to lose favor with civil authorities and harms the testimony of Christ.

The solution is to do good and receive praise from government officials for being model citizens.

This is the best way to insure that those same government officials will be willing to listen when we have legitimate concerns about our religious freedoms being eroded.

Conclusion

It is not the end of the world if we were to lose some of our civil freedoms. As long as we can still preach the gospel freely and obey the word of God in our personal lives without government interference, there is no need for Christians to join with an angry, civilly disobedient crowd. While the Bible instructs us to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29), remember that the first part is the most significant: **obey God!** Let's make sure that if we are ever in trouble with the powers that be, it is because we have obeyed God and not because we unnecessarily resisted the powers that God ordained to be. 📖

Missionary News

How COVID-19 has affected our Missionaries

Spain

Quarantining officially began March 14 with regulations on movement with only one representative from the family allowed out of the house at a time for restricted essential visits to grocery, bank, and pharmacy. They must download and print an official form online which states where they are going as well as the date and time. There are checks by police for both the form itself and whether it matches what is represented in the hand/vehicle. Fines are 600 Euros (\$660) first time offenders and up to 30.000 for continual offences. There is an allowance of only one family member walking one animal for an outside time of one hour each day. At 8:00 PM each evening, Spaniards applaud and cheer their emergency medical workers publically while on their balconies.

Moises & Rosa Campos

Moises and Rosa live seven hours away from their one daughter, but within five minutes of their other daughter, son-in-law and grandson. Even still they cannot visit each other, though they do talk over zoom. With their closer daughter, Elizabeth and Rosa work it out where they are both going to buy groceries at the same time.

On April 8th Rosa wrote: As we are entering our 4th week of quarantine, it seems that in two more weeks Spain will be entering in the "2nd stage" of confinement, when some jobs will be able to restart and we'll begin going out little by little with lots of protection. Right now children are not allowed to be out of their homes, and with a great majority living in apartments the situation can be quite stressful for them. Our daughter Elisabeth is doing a great job inventing all kinds of crafts and activities to keep little Lucas busy and happy day after day.

Since the Covid-19 began, the church is closed and Zoom meetings have been opened as follows:

1. Worship service on Sunday morning.
2. Ladies Meeting on Monday.

3. Prayer Meeting. (Studies on the book of James) on Wednesday.
4. Bible Studies on Ephesians on Friday.
5. Several personal meetings.
6. Youth meeting on Saturday.

Some of their elderly ladies are not able to video in, but Rosa speaks to them individually over the phone each week.

This has been our ministry for the last two months and it seems it will continue to be so for a little longer. Using the internet has been an excellent tool for our group, since it has strengthened our relationships. Being physically separated has brought us closer together. For now, our main prayer request is that as soon as we are allowed to meet again, we will be able to continue with the project of opening as a place of worship with all the legal requirements.

Peter & Rosa Pinyol

Peter and his family had invested heavily in cameras and film making equipment (lights, screens, etc.) for ministry already. Because of this, none of his teaching ministry has suffered. Also, for one hour each day, their church congregation fellowships remotely through zoom conferencing.

Some members no longer have an income, so as either Peter or Rosa are out walking the dog, they leave some relief funds with them from the church. In contrast, they have three nurses and three nursing home workers in their church who are extremely busy.

On April 16 Peter wrote: I thought it was going to be a time of peace and rest at home...nope! We have been more busy than before! Our Bible Institute classes have continued on Tuesdays, and our teens have meetings using zoom two times a week. We could not forget the children in this time while they are at home and parents do not know what to do with them. Because we homeschooled our children we have been able to help parents in their needs of teaching their own children outside school. We wanted also to continue teaching our Sunday School children about the Bible. They even wanted for us to continue with our theme for this year VBS; "Discovery", so we have been recording a series of videos for children while I dressed up like Captain Magallanes and taught children about the adventures of discovering God's Word.

Philippines

Bobby & Imee Livioco

March 14, President Duterte declared a Metro-Manila lockdown, the Philippines' epicenter of the corona virus crisis. Yet, we had our usual Sunday School and Morning Service last March 15. Our scheduled baptism of a family pushed through that afternoon. The following day, a Luzon-wide lock down was declared subject to daily re-evaluation. All domestic and international commercial flights have been cancelled, mass gatherings have been discouraged, one-meter social distancing enforced. With an additional 8:00 pm to 5:00 am curfew hours imposed since last March 17 and military checkpoints in various roads to get people to stay home, we started online services since Wednesday, March 18.

Our church planting efforts at our Sta. Cruz, Laguna outreach have been postponed until further notice. One household has stayed in touch through our social media services. Most of them do not have wifi connections or computer gadgets. Please pray with us for the believers there to continue in the Word.

Our Annual Family Camp scheduled for April 7-10 had to be cancelled for the first time in decades.

We have had confirmed invitations to preach God's Word to churches both here and abroad that have been reluctantly cancelled or postponed due to the corona crisis. In fact, we have already purchased our plane tickets early March for meetings in the East Coast, Midwest and the West Coast beginning the end of April. But our all-wise God has better plans.

Praise the Lord for technology in such a time as this! Our online services recorded at our Facebook page have received more views than ever before. His Word is not quarantined! Our Sunday School, Evening Services and Wednesday Bible Studies are conducted via Zoom, while our Sunday Morning Services are broadcasted livestream via our Facebook page at foundationbaptistchurch and uploaded later at our YouTube channel. We are amazed to see how God makes His truth marching on!

It seems the Lord is reminding us all that our ministries are His open doors. It is His to let it stay open (or open more doors), or to have it

closed. It is our desire that He continues to be pleased in using us to advance His cause and the Gospel as He sees fit!

Danielle asked us to support her in her desire to help batchmates whom she learned are stranded in UP campus due to the total lockdown. With her little savings, she came up with bags of food and hygiene kits. She also placed Gospel tracts in the bags she gave away. So we went to the campus. Pray that the tracts be used to speak to their hearts about the Gospel.

While in the campus, she learned that the stranded students are depended on donations for food so sometimes there is and sometimes none. She wanted to extend more help. We are thanking God for the positive responses from the students especially their openness to the tracts she gave. Pray that this will be used to be a witness for the Lord. Pray for wisdom as she got messages from some parents of her batchmates who are asking how they can help her in her project. She is praying that she will get more help so she can do another round of donations. Pray for safety as well.

Uganda

**The Ma'di Bible Translators
that Samuel Moss oversees**

Though there were only 44 confirmed infections and four deaths related to COVID-19 in the whole country as of April 12, the country has been on restrictive movement since March 30th. Curfew is in place from 7:00 PM each evening to 5:00 AM. The police first interpreted this order as for people to remain inside their homes during the curfew, though President Museveni only issued a 'stay at home' order as to mean that everyone must return to their homes and not be out in public. However, police country-wide leaped over fences and walls to beat people with batons for being seated on their front porches. The President has tried to curve this from continuing.

Similar to the rest of the world, though, no extended travel is permitted, and all non-essential travel is halted. People may walk to places or are allowed to ride their bikes or motorcycles, but can take no one with them. Motorized travel is restricted and they have to be off the streets by 2:00 in the afternoon. This means that the Bible translators

have only been able to work mornings in order to ride their motorcycles back home in time. So they have only been able to work half the time they used to.

People were lacking in food due to increased prices and inability to work. World View Ministries (who work with the translators) organized some relief funds to purchase food for the believers in the village churches. This was a great encouragement to the translators and their churches. They were so grateful for the love the American believers showed to them during a time of crisis providing the physical things they needed but hadn't even asked for.

They are not able to communicate freely with large groups of people in the ministry through social media like developed worlds. The technology is available for things like zoom, skype, face time, etc.; however, almost no one has it. If they do have it they can't afford to use it. They have to buy data, and right now their money needs to go to other more important needs for themselves and their families. It would be too expensive to watch a whole livestream anyway.

Samuel Moss in Iowa

They have been able to get back to normal services as of May 3rd with social distancing, and are able to reach a lot more people in the community with the facebook live services that they have been doing.

Hong Kong

Roger & Nola Perrott

Life and ministry under the coronavirus is very different, isn't it? We thought that it would be a great hindrance to our attempts at starting a church here in Tin Shui Wai. However, it is interesting to see that we have had different, but good opportunities during this time. Because of the prohibition against public meetings, we had to start broadcasting our services on Facebook Live. I was quite surprised to see that we had over 100 people view the first message broadcast that way, including a good number of folks in Hong Kong that have never come to our services. We had some technical problems the first two weeks, but by the third Sunday broadcast, everything was ironed out. We are excited at this new opportunity. Pray for the ones listening to be saved if they are not.

We are also in the process of preparing and passing out a tract I wrote on Amos 4's call to repentance. People do not talk to each other during social

distancing, but we can put tracts in their mailboxes. Our intention is to pass it out to every housing area that we can enter. My English classes have also been switched to online. That saves me a lot of travel time I used to spend, but it does make personal contact hard.

Our furlough plans have been postponed till this is over. Lord willing, we would like to return to the USA in August for a short furlough now. The nice thing is that I can still preach for my church even while in the USA for several weeks via Facebook Live. The Lord has used this to push me to do things I previously was reluctant to try because of my inability with technology. My plans after this virus are to always do messages on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays here (10:30 p.m. Saturdays DST), to put out posts on my Facebook that address current problems biblically, and to start producing YouTube videos of me teaching through books of the Bible in 4-15 minute videos for each book with both Chinese and English done separately.

Our daughter, Anna, was married on April 18, 2020 to a nice young man, Pearce Binns, whom she met last year at BJU. We are so happy for them. Wish we could have been there, but this situation made that impossible.

Andrew finished his last semester at BJU. The graduation ceremony was virtual. Pray for God's leading for him as he decides about his future and career.

There have been several interesting articles in the news here. One recently said that there have been a much larger number of inquiries about divorce since people have been forced to stay home. How sad that makes me! Pray for the people of Hong Kong to draw closer to their families, not farther apart in these times. I also saw that the protesters in Hong Kong have made plans to restart their protests by July 1st. With the financial hit from last year's protests, then Covid-19, Hong Kong is reeling right now. Pray that the Lord would work in all this to soften men's hearts toward the gospel.

There are also have been articles indicating confusion over the role of Beijing's office in Hong Kong. Some say it is supervisory, some that it is just for expressing Beijing's opinions. Now, some seem to think it has some actual power to influence law. This is definitely something to pray over. I feel Beijing is definitely starting to reach into and remold Hong Kong society in their image. Pray that the Lord will protect the freedoms now enjoyed here.

South Africa

Do you remember the time when you used to take a bath or shower before you went out? You might still do that, but with the COVID-19 coronavirus it is more important to wash after you come back home - that is if you are even allowed to go out!

South Africa on lock down means that we can only make trips to the grocery store, pharmacy or doctor. All the schools are closed. There is no incoming international mail as there are no international flights. Anything sent to us we will not get, and it will be returned to you. We are not to go walking or bike riding in the community – they want everyone to stay on their property. It is illegal to walk down the street or take your dog for a walk off of your own property. At times, the police are stopping vehicles and checking on why people are out and about. Many have been arrested for disregarding the lock down rules. One guy got arrested for riding a bicycle, and another man in our Province was arrested for attempted murder because he knew he had the virus, but went about with his normal activities possibly infecting other people!

Even if a grocery store sells non-food items, they are not allowed to sell those items now. All restaurants are totally closed and grocery stores are not allowed to sell any cooked food. There is a bit of looting going on with people not working and needing food.

Donald & Karen Kilmer - to the Zulus

Today I got stopped by the police at a roadblock. He asked me for my permit. Those who are allowed to work have to have a letter from the employer stating what they do and why they are considered essential workers. I asked him what permit he was talking about. He said, "Let me put it another way. Where are you going?" I told him I was going to the bank, and that was acceptable. They write down everyone's license plate number and driver's license number.

The lock down also means no church services. Many churches are posting online services or preaching. This is a good idea; however, it won't work for our people as most don't have internet access and those who do can't afford the data to listen to extended teaching. I am simply sending a text message to those who have cell phones to encourage them in a Bible study fashion. Our adults have cell phones, but

the youth do not. Please pray that our youth will stay strong and true to the Lord during this time.

The Saturday three-hour classes we are taking is now online so we can continue taking the classes. Sunday is a long day at home, so after we listen to several messages and sing with churches, we do our three hours of classes! A nice way to spend a Sunday!

Donald heard that pastors can get a permit to travel. He filled out the travel permit online, printed it, signed it and stamped it with our church stamp. He also had to write a letter stating he as a pastor is delivering food to those in need and doing counseling.

Sunday, June 7th we had our first service, meeting outside. We need to take temperatures, name and phone number of all attendees. All must wear masks (we bought some) and stay 1.5 meters (a little more than 1 1/2 yards) apart. No singing unless there is a solo!

Marc & Judie Blackwell - Capetown

Please pray for all the faithful Bible-believing churches, pastors and missionaries as they are working hard to be effective in pastoral and evangelistic ministry though faced with "social distancing"!

We are making video Bible studies and our daughter, Michelle, is doing Sunday School lessons on line. We are so thankful we can still minister to our people.

The task of magnifying the name of the Lord among unbelievers is complicated, at best. With calamities like the COVID-19 virus, so many blame the Lord. Men fail to accept that mankind's sin, not God (James 1:13-15) has brought life its calamities. As ambassadors of Christ we call men to receive and accept Christ as man's only hope! So pray for us to be bold, effective witness of Jesus Christ, "That utterance may be given me...that I may open my mouth boldly. Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the crowd was confused and most of them did not know why they had come together." (Acts 19:32). Confusion reigns among the lost, but by His grace there is no confusion in our hearts. Pray for us. Pray for South Africa to hear the truth!

How Covid-19 has affected Missionaries in the States

Matt Smith Family on Deputation

These last few months have been very different than what we have experienced the last year. We went from a full schedule and traveling every few days, to being "stopped" in Maryland due to the pandemic. In mid-March, we began to have meetings cancel. All told, we have lost meetings in 10 churches. We have been blessed that two have rescheduled for this fall, and we pray the others can reschedule. Lord willing, we will be headed out West for a couple months in Arizona and Texas. Please pray with us for safety on the roads and that no more meetings will be cancelled.

May 17th, I had the opportunity of presenting our ministry again for the first time since March. What a difference to present via live-stream! It is the first time I have presented and preached to a camera tripod. It gave me a profound respect for the many pastors who have been limited to preaching to cameras for the last few months.

With not being able to travel, we have tried to be a blessing and minister where God has stopped us. The building and grounds at Faith Baptist Church in Joppa, Maryland, were needing several repairs, and we have been able to help with those. We are so grateful for these opportunities.

May 24th I preached at Faith Baptist in Joppa, Maryland. Praise the Lord that the county we are in, opened back up and churches are able to meet in their buildings again. May that soon be the case across the country.

Amanda has been using this extra time to continue to work on her Spanish. She has spent time almost every day studying and is doing well. We hope that her efforts now will greatly increase her effectiveness and understanding early on in Colombia. Amanda has also been able to work more with the kids and their home schooling. It has helped tremendously just being in the same place and able to study with more of a routine.

Teachers Assistance Program (TAP)

For all of us, our worlds have changed completely in the last months over Covid-19. TAP is no different. Things have been very quiet. Our shipping partners have added International surcharges which has increased our shipping costs considerably during this time. We have seen practically no materials dropped off as people are adhering to the 'stay-at-home' order. Our donations are down.

We are not complaining. We are dealing with the fallout of this pandemic like every other ministry. We have not been able to ship anything, so we spent extra time organizing, cleaning, and packing boxes for future shipments.

All of our missionary partners that we would normally be shipping to are also dealing with this pandemic in their own countries at varying degrees - so we are in a holding pattern. We are ready and waiting for this to pass so that we can resume our normal activities. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

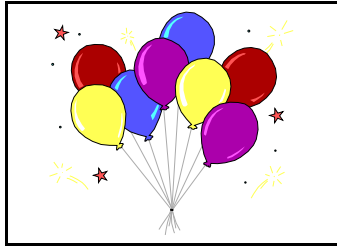
Military Evangelism

Our shutdown started during the last two weeks of March. We have been holding our Bible studies online ever since. We have purchased a no-touch forehead thermometer and will take temperatures of attendees when we do reopen.

Throughout this time we have still been able to minister to several of our Marines. I get several texts a week and hold Bible studies through those, answering questions our Troops have as they continue to faithfully read and study Scripture. We thank God that though we are separated physically, our Troops are staying in contact with us.

Most of our Troops are on modified work schedules, working every other day, 3-day work weeks, and changing shifts. All this in an attempt to fulfill social distancing requirements. The result is, they have extra time on their hands. Some have used that to volunteer at the Center. They do grass mowing and yard work, cleaning up of the constructions site, and more. It is a joy to serve those who give their lives to service.

Church Family News



Happy Birthday

July

5 - Phil Kissinger
 7 - Seth Laning
 10 - Connie Morrow
 19 - **Rosa Campos**
 20 - Hope Brammer
 22 - Emma Kay Laning
 22 - Luke Laning
 24 - **Anna Perrott**
 25 - Shawn Smith

August

5 - Mary Shelly
 11 - Liberty Brammer
 11 - Margery Wilt
 12 - Earl Knuth
 12 - Patsy Knuth
 12 - **Rosa Pinyol**
 12 - Ina Stelfox
 19 - Abigail Wertz
 21 - Rick Fetrow, Sr.
 21 - Mary Snyder
 23 - Henry Balcom (son)
 26 - Gerald Cook
 27 - Elizabeth Wertz
 31 - Ginnie Stough

September

1 - Gladys Gross
 1 - Daniel Wertz
 2 - Ed Cosgrove
 2 - Jackson Morrow



5 - Dawn Eyer
 6 - Richard Waltemyer
 7 - Andrew Fetrow
 10 - Robert Frey
 10 - Ken Hoffman
 10 - Don Snyder
 17 - Lester Fink
 18 - **Roberto Livio**
 19 - Brian Hilt
 22 - Ian Morrow
 26 - Susan Peters
 29 - **Glenn Hilt**
 29 - Hannah Wertz



Happy Anniversary

July

9 - **Don & Karen Kilmer**
 9 - Phil & Gloria Kissinger
 20 - Roy & Laura Morrow
 20 - Pastor & Joyce Moss
 27 - Gerald & Darcy Cook
 30 - Don & Mary Snyder

August

4 - Bud & Mary Collins
 11 - **Roger & Nola Perrott**
 14 - **Samuel & Nicole Moss**
 22 - Norm & Sonja Breneman

September

27 - Jim & Shigeko Hall

Please Note!

The purpose of printing these lists is to give the church family an opportunity to congratulate one another on these special days. The **bold print** indicates a member of our missionary family.

Please see pictures of our church activities on our website at www.northhillsbiblechurch.org and click on the "Resources" link and find "Current Issue".

Pray for our Church Elders and Trustees

Elders:

Pastor Moss, Greg Beard,
 Gerald Cook, Glenn Hilt, John
 Kanost, and Don Snyder

Trustees:

Earl Knuth and Rick Fetrow

Remember Our Shut-ins



Lorraine Beath, Bob Frey, Millie Geisler,
 Pam Grove, Shigeko Hall, Gloria Hevner,
 Mary Lambert, Susan Peters, Reg & Ina
 Stelfox