

Focus on the Fields

June 2020



COVID-19

We have been praying for each of our supporting churches and their members during this pandemic. The way things used to be seems like a long time ago. We have all begun to adjust to the new normal.

Graduations here in the USA were cancelled or modified to meet guidelines. We had the privilege to join the Silvas in our granddaughter Mikeila's drive through graduation. Many of you can empathize with

these graduates in these very different circumstances. Some, like Jim Wright, received his Master of Divinity from Bob Jones Seminary through the mail. Jim is now a translator consultant in training with his degree and full support achieved.

Work, school and church has changed for most of us here in the USA. Missionaries faced strict regulations in their countries of service. Ministries were halted, stay at home orders enforced, free movement ended for months. Some missionaries were unable to come on furlough and others were prevented from returning to their place of ministry. We were unable to minister in two supporting churches due to the pandemic. It has been a blessing to receive online messages and devotionals from our own church as well as our supporting churches.

Technology allowed us to work from home and stay in contact with our ODBM missionaries around the world. We were able to communicate encouragement, advice and assurance of our prayers using different formats. We updated the annual renewal of each missionary's personal, ministry and financial information.



On April 7th Marla and I began virtual discipleship with seven of our ten grandchildren. We spend an hour or so with them twice a week. This is an answer to a burden we have felt for years to pass on what God is teaching us to the next generation and His "power to everyone that is to come." Psalm 71:18. Soon our first grandchild will leave home for college and life will take on a new chapter for her family. Perhaps one of the most difficult things for us has been social distancing from our family and church. On the other hand, contact and across the street conversations with our neighbors have increased during these months. We pray daily for their salvation and redemptive opportunities to present Christ.



Paul's Uncle Tom Madison was the final one from Paul's paternal and maternal families to go to be with the Lord. Many of you may have also been ill, faced the passing of a loved one and loneliness during these days of isolation. Our God has been a very present help during these months.



For several Sundays Marla has been teaching a ladies Sunday School class for one who had surgery with some complications. After two months of not being allowed to meet we now are able to attend live Sunday School and Church services. Singing together as a church is still evolving.

Just as we went back to the Mission office on our regular schedule, a co-worker came down with COVID-19. We are thankful that she and her husband have recuperated fully.

It is our privilege to minister to prospective, new and veteran missionaries to spread the knowledge of Christ throughout the earth. Thank you for partnering with us in the gospel. Your faithful giving has continued even through this time of testing. We are so very grateful for you!

Rejoicing,

Paul and Marla Fields

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