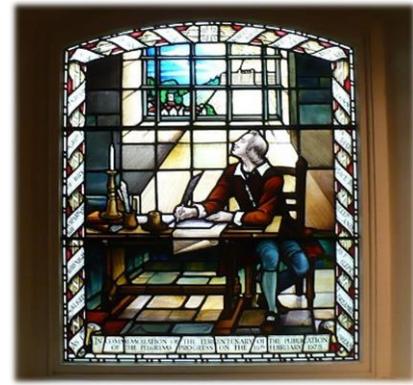


April 7, 2020

## Good morning, Everybody.

Every day I wait for news of anyone in our church or among our missionaries who has contracted the virus. And for every day that passes without there being any such report, I'm so thankful. Every inconvenience we're navigating right now is negligible by comparison to someone's dying of this sickness.

I'm sending you a picture. It's of a framed set of Mary Slessor items that hangs in our dining room. As you know, Mary Slessor was the Scottish missionary to Calabar, West Africa, after which our missionary, Anne Slessor Dreisbach, is named.



Many years ago Linda and I visited Mary Slessor's birthplace in Dundee, Scotland, and took pictures of these items. The woman in the top left is Mary's mother, who was married to an alcoholic. The other two pictures are of Mary on the mission field. The one top right is of two pages of her Bible (she began with a new one every year, and marked it diligently), and the one bottom right is a page from one of her journals.

This particular page includes successive entries recording her suffering night by night with a fever and headache. And there were other troubles as well. Here are the opening lines of one day.

*Fever again all night. The new bed broke down in the night. A bolt gave way. Carpenter made another from a piece of rod. I have market. Rain constant.*

Well, all of that isn't entirely inconsequential. Those kinds of things are burdensome. But they're manageable. And generally they pass.

But then she relates the plight of some dear old woman who *really* had a problem.

*Old lady. Her sons refused to go for her medicine this morning, and told her to die. "You are too old. Die!"*

*Poor old thing. Have sent for chief to talk over it.*

How unimaginable! We can thank the Lord that our troubles don't begin to amount to that!

### **Thankfulness**

I decided yesterday to begin keeping a list of blessings for which to thank the Lord during this crisis. I'll add just one item to the list each day so that I can really magnify it as a distinct mercy from God. Today it will be, *Praise the Lord that no one in our church, none of our missionaries, and none of our family has as yet contracted this virus. Some of us may. But every day virus free is a mercy not to be taken for granted.*

May the Lord direct your heart into the love of God today, and draw your attention to some special evidence of His faithful, covenant care for you.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick