

August 12, 2020

**Good morning, Everybody.**

This letter is coming a little late today. But hopefully not *too* late for you to read it (smile).

We had a good elders' meeting last night; a sizable portion of it spent discussing our attempts to phase more of the ministry back in over the next few months. We'll keep everyone updated as we go along. Yesterday afternoon you probably received an e-mail with a few newsy items in this regard; if not, please let the church office know, and we'll get that most recent update to you.



We've had some very special services the last two weeks.

- the 1st baptismal service in months
- the quarterly business mtg. last Wednesday
- the 1st Lord's Table service in five months
- the teens' ministry and testimonies this last Lord's Day evening

I'm mentioning these highlights because of an e-mail that came first thing this morning from one of our missionaries. His church has not been able to have live services of any kind for going on six months now, and even stricter public restrictions were imposed just last week so that the anticipation is that they won't be able to resume on-site services for the remainder of 2020.

I know that you **are** praying for our missionaries and their people, but receiving news like this highlights just how important it is for us to **continue** in our praying (Colossians 4:2). The Lord wants our attention, and He wants it constantly and devotedly. One of the foremost ways in which He constrains us to pray (What does it say about us—that we must be *constrained* to speak with Him?) is to keep us completely dependent day after day after day. Then we pray.

Surely, when it comes to the needs of our folks out on the frontiers of Christ's cause, one prayer will not do. A prayer now and then will not do. It's like Hudson Taylor wrote to Jonathan Goforth when he heard that Goforth was intending to launch a work in a particularly difficult section of China:

"We understand North Honan is to be your field; we, as a mission, have tried for ten years to enter that province from the south, and have only just succeeded. It is one of the most anti-foreign provinces in China. . . . Brother, if you would enter that province, *you must go forward on your knees.*"

We'll undoubtedly have this impressed upon us again this evening when Tim Bixby updates us on the work in Bordeaux. And then we'll have a good time of prayer together. But we truly must pray for our folks on the fields *daily*.

I hope that you're having a stable, faith-filled week. It will be good to see many of you tonight, but may those of you who are meeting with us by the live-streaming receive just as much of a blessing as those present.



Tim, Ruth, Micaiah, Miriam,  
Zacharie, Gabriel, and Simeon.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick