

Thank you for continuing to pray for us and supporting our ministry. The way(s) governments and peoples of nations all over the world have dealt with the impact of the covid virus alarm is very evident here in the Oceanic. Seems like every nation has a different approach. Bonnie and I and our congregation have not been greatly affected, praise God. We have lost several friends Stateside though; their deaths exasperated by the virus, and we continue in prayer for their families. One of our long-time supporting churches, New Life Baptist Church in White Marsh Maryland (near Baltimore), lost their pastor Johnnie Brewer due to the virus. Bro. Brewer had a unique love for missionaries, often writing us several times throughout the year letting us know that he was praying for us. Those emails always seemed to come at a time when encouragement was needed and served as a reminder that there was someone, somewhere, praying for us. We thank the Lord for men like Pastor Brewer.

The Australian Government has turned much of the management of the pandemic over to the state governments. Australia has handled things very well, although the state of Victoria and its capital city Melbourne has lagged in containing the virus. The pandemic certainly will have some impact on world missions. We continue to adjust and re-adjust for the sake of the Gospel. We do sense a little more freedom and opportunity for personal evangelism in the last few months, and it seems more Aussies are willing to talk about spiritual things.

The Solomon Islands remains closed. There has not been an outbreak there, only the couple of cases that have arrived from college students returning from overseas has been reported and those infections have been contained. The last we heard the Solomon Islands Government reassess the condition of entry every four weeks. As soon as the borders open, we hope to recommence the Bible College. We are having to put in place an online communication platform for teaching the Bible College students in the islands. Please pray that God will provide a couple of laptop computers now that internet services in Honiara are working well.

Joseph Iro continues to put the radio station together. We received funds for the building of the studio and that will start as soon as the seasonal rains cease. The road to the station setup above Honiara is steep and muddy, it may be a few more weeks before we can complete the work there. For now, the Christians in the Solomon Islands that we have had the opportunity to minister to are on their own (they will be okay). The two missionary families I know and have worked with were both out of the country when the shutdowns occurred and are now unable to return. Please pray especially for Bro. Dominic Kelly and his wife Natasha, they are patiently waiting in Papua New Guinea ready to get back to Honiara as soon as they can.

The pandemic really has given us some time to slow down in the ministry and do some reassessing ourselves. We have asked God to clear our vision for the Oceanic region and the ministry we have here in Australia. Our hope is renewed each day in the hope of the gospel for every soul we meet. We plan to make an outreach push later in March and hope to letterbox our community with the gospel. We are praying that souls will be saved.

Finally, we are also praying that God will use Oceanic Baptist Outreach as a ministry to help more missionaries get to the field. Our specific prayer request is that a young couple may join us soon supported through Oceanic Baptist Outreach. We have a young couple in mind, it would be wonderful if God would allow us to help them raise their support and have them on the field (in the Solomon Islands) without having to go through the expense of a deputation process. More and more I seek to model OBO more like Hudson Taylor did with the China Inland Mission, with no home office and relying on faith and prayer. We are praying that God will lay it on the heart of someone to initiate giving to help get missionaries to the field in this much needed part of the world.

Recently I've been asked to consider joining a Creation Evangelism group to minister in the remote areas of the Outback. We are prayerfully considering it. Over the years I have developed an approach of presenting the gospel and Biblical Creation principles to the young people we minister to at youth camps, churches, and in schools. We call our ministry Creation Down Under (CDU). I am hoping that we can also encourage homeschoolers (all over the world) to be more aware of missions. Hopefully, our website will be up soon. Please encourage your young people to watch out for it and we would appreciate your prayer for us as we develop this ministry.

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