



# PRAY FOR THE WORLD DURING COVID-19

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## PRAY FOR ALL CSC GLOBAL WORKERS, CHURCH PLANTERS AND AGENCIES

- ♦ Workers to be faithful to comfort, guide, listen, share and help people so God's light would shine brightly amidst the darkness
- ♦ Strength and peace of God to be with ministry workers
- ♦ Those working around the clock, under very stressful circumstances who need protection from burnout, stress and illness.
- ♦ Receptivity to the Gospel and that God's Kingdom would grow in spite of the alien concepts of physical distancing.
- ♦ God's provision in the midst of declining funding and wisdom in using his provision
- ♦ Small group networks in each community

## CHURCH PLANTS

- ♦ God's people will act on the confidence that Jesus is not limited in building his church
- ♦ Planters will continue to find creative ways to bring God's hope into communities
- ♦ The song written in response to the Nova Scotia killing rampage would open up doors for further discussion about God.
- ♦ Housing, work and friendships for church planters Chris and Gemma who have just arrived in Nova Scotia to plant in a new location
- ♦ Churches all over Québec, especially smaller congregations, can engage disinterested communities with the Good news of Jesus
- ♦ Protection of the church plant teams in First nations areas facing some opposition and spiritual warfare. continued unity and transformation of lives
- ♦ Protection and provision as the Indian church faces coronavirus lock down, food scarcity and persecution.



## GLOBAL WORKERS

- ♦ Creative ways for Abe Bible to hold regular church planting workshops May (with quarantine until May 11) encouraging and challenging planters to faithfully grow and do good
- ♦ Stan and Sally Bragg continue to take hold of the new place God is showing them- the back seat so to speak! That they will step into this new season of mentoring First nations leaders with new passion and fervency in the Lord!
- ♦ Travel safety for Dale and Debbie Kenyon when they leave for Canada and permission to cross the Canadian border.
- ♦ People in Africa and beyond to have their eyes opened to the wealth of resources that God provides for their abundance and that they would have courage to work hard and use available land to provide for their families and communities. Pray against the lies of the enemy that condemn people as "poor" would be broken and that all those struggling would reach out to the God who desires their lives to flourish and overflow with his goodness. (Dan & Kerry Wiens)
- ♦ Seeds planted as Jerry and Carol Sherman host a web outreach for Members of Parliament and foreign ambassadors in early May.
- ♦ For Rob and Sharlene Dilts Sister-in-law, Kelly who has untreatable brain cancer and for opportunities for the family to share Christ's love and peace with them.

## AGENCIES

- ♦ Wisdom for Val as she navigates Chaplaincy in the arts community offering peace and hope from a distance in incredible uncertainty
- ♦ Continued wisdom for World Partners as they seek new ways to emerge to engage in global mission
- ♦ Continued health at Teen Challenge so that they can continue to operate the one year program for addictions
- ♦ Continued health and safety at Mustard Seed Shelters and for staff opportunities to have spiritual conversations with anxious and fearful clients
- ♦ Ngap believers will be emboldened and empowered with their brand new Scriptures in their hand and that their joy and hope in the midst of the pandemic will turn the hearts of MANY Buddhist and animist villagers to the Lord of Hope.

## FOR THE WORLD

- ♦ God's presence and power to be with those who are displaced, anxious or suffering, and that His Word and His Church would bring fresh hope
- ♦ God's strength to be with those who are offering care to others
- ♦ Confidence instead of fear for Medical staff and especially for those who are believers in medical professions
- ♦ God's Spirit and wisdom to guide decision makers and government officials
- ♦ The hungry all throughout the developing world with no opportunities to sell their products or run their small businesses are facing real food shortages and dire conditions
- ♦ Covid 19 to start moving in a direction where the borders, restrictions and economy can heal and move towards a new normal
- ♦ The many who are sick or dying alone while their families and loved ones are restricted from contact



## STORIES

In a remote region of Ethiopia, home to an unreached people group, 27 Muslim background believers (part of a small church of 60 Christians) grew bold in their Christian faith. They decided they wanted to follow Christ through water baptism. In early February 2020 while crowds of people were on their way to the mosque to worship, these excited new believers proudly marched down to the river. A great multitude followed, gathering around to listen as the Christians gave their testimonies. Confusion and curiosity abounded when the crowds heard the Christians speaking of being baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Instead of persecuting the Christians, the onlookers only asked questions. The Holy Spirit opened their minds to the Truth, and many more that day became followers of Jesus.

Since this mass baptism, the original group of 60 believers ventured further in their outreach. Over the past two months, they have planted 16 new house churches ranging in size from 55 to 130 people. The initial group has multiplied to over 1,700 believers. This incredible expansion of the Kingdom of God has all happened in the past 60 days through 60 Muslim background believers in Christ. **Empower Ministries**

"With the physical distancing guidelines we have been asked to follow, we've been working on new ways to continue old traditions. A sunrise ceremony celebrating the Creator has been one of our longtime traditions, so this year we held the ceremony live online.

"We were missing all of the key components that would normally be required to make this a "ceremony:" the sun was hidden behind clouds, so we didn't actually see the sunrise; there is a province-wide fire ban so we weren't able to have a fire going; and it was just three of us, myself, Sharlene, and Jonathan, down by the river because we weren't allowed to gather.

"We have no idea how many people tuned in, however people out fishing in the early morning, heard the drumming and turned briefly to face the East. We didn't see the sun, but the light of day reminded us our Creator is always there. He always hears our prayers and is always with us even when we do not see or feel Him, just as Christ promised that He would always be with us.

"As we finished our live broadcast, a couple of neighbours came walking by, sorry that they had missed the ceremony. However, God brought them at just the right time for the opportunity to share Christ's message and new life revealed in the rising sun and His Word. The older neighbour has been a part of Sharlene's women's circle for a few months while the other neighbour who is new to the community, is now interested in joining as well. We gave her a copy of the First Nations Bible and she asked to pray with us before we went our separate ways.

"Although practicing physical distancing and feeling somewhat isolated during the ceremony, Christ reminded us that His message will be shared and keeping our distance expresses His love and care to others. We are showing our community that their health and safety, especially their elders, are important to us and important to our Creator." **Rob and Sharlene Dilts**

"I was posted at the Mustard Seed Shelter to help with the ongoing efforts there during the COVID-19 pandemic. I ran into a guest who is currently stuck in Calgary because the program he was trying to get into shut the doors during the Pandemic and he didn't know until he got off the plane which landed him at the shelter. He is a new Christian with a very shady past. He was scared because he doesn't know the city, and was afraid to get involved with the wrong people. Originally he had a health question which led into 2 hours of us sharing our testimony with each other, and with me praying over some strongholds in his life. He shared with me that when he was 6, his mother was possessed with a spirit and spit on him and cursed him with the spirit of death. I was able to dialog with him about what that means and pray for his freedom in that. He was also questioning why he was stuck at the shelter. One thing I keep hearing over and over again is Esther 4:14 "And who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this?." I was able to share that with



him, and explain that perhaps he was temporarily at the shelter to get into the dark places that the rest of us can't get into, and he was placed at the shelter "for such a time as this" to spread the love of Jesus at the time when hope seems to be at its lowest? He was so excited for his new "mission" at the shelter. I then gave him a book that had been sitting in my bag for a few months. I don't remember why I put it in there, but once again, maybe it was for "such a time as this"? It was "The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence. Later that evening I saw him sitting in the dining area reading his Bible with another guest and discussing scripture.

As a nurse typically we don't get to spend more than a few minutes at a time with people, and especially a couple of hours. I have never felt more blessed and alive in my faith than being posted at the shelter. THIS is what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and then to go and make disciples in His name! I have been honored to work for The Mustard Seed for the past almost 2 years, but especially during this Pandemic when we are ALL called to love deeply at "such a time as this." **Mustard Seed**

"We received a phone call late one evening from a pastor who lives in the rural mountain area saying that the price of corn, beans, and rice had doubled or tripled due to COVID-19. As global workers in Mexico, we've been able to send money electronically to some pastors so they can put food on their tables during this time when work is scarce. It's a privilege to bless families with groceries, deliver drinking water, provide next-door neighbours with fresh baked goods, and encourage many people over the phone and video messaging. We are grateful to be part of the Lord's care team." **Phil and Carolyn English**

God is working in the arts community (although many would not acknowledge that it's Him) through the generosity of artists putting out free content. There have been play readings online, short films being created and released, free e-books to download, online painting lessons and so much more. I know of costume designers who are making and donating masks and musicians playing "couch concerts". If ever there was a time when we relied on the artists to fill us, distract us, inspire us...it is now. **Fire Exit**

In a home in Cuba, a partner's sewing machine whirs and drones constantly as she pieces together fabric into face masks. Corine\* then hands these colourful, patterned face masks out to community members and essential workers, responding to the needs of her community just as Jesus would. **World Serve**

In the Dominican Republic, our clients live in poverty and difficult circumstances. Yet they took their small savings which they have been building over the past months, pooled it and used it to buy groceries for neighbours who are without food. **Opportunity International**

One client found herself homeless and in the wrong city after her job situation evaporated in this current environment. She wanted to get back to Calgary, but was without a safe place to stay. With a lot of hard work, and many phone calls, our staff was able to find her a temporary place to stay, with a permanent place to go when her two weeks of quarantine is up. Her friend - who was helping her out - commented, "you are the only people who will call her back - thanks for being there for her"

So, things are different, and yet they are so much the same. Our clients have needs - both physical and emotional. We can be there remotely, but we can still be there. And our client numbers continue to grow. Pregnancies still happen. Stable situations become unstable. Layoffs are inevitable, and the needs become greater. **Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre**

We have seen God provide community support around every corner. A local church near our Foothills Shelter provided their building as a secondary emergency shelter allowing us to enforce social distancing among our guests, without turning anyone away. Clients sleeping there said that they had the best sleep of their lives while in the church building. We are encouraged that God's spirit is strong there. **Mustard Seed**

