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Falling Away?

Ministries

• EVANGELIZING • NATIONS

Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 2 Thessalonians 2:3 (KJV)

Congo, sharing the one daily meal and Good News with his four friends

The full effects of Covid-19 upon the church has yet to be determined. Most churches in the USA were able to react rather quickly and begin to broadcast their regular services over the internet. Some even began online Bible teaching replacing home groups. Although financial offerings were down many

pastors were quoted as having a larger online congregation than before the outbreak. Churches in other nations were not able to react so quickly in the same way. With no internet, or consistant electricity, or with the limited finances of the people, most churches in Central and South America, and Africa cancelled all meetings.

Will this pandemic be the "Great Falling Away" or will this be "The Last Great Revival?" Or could this be both?

People have begun to question what is important in life. Staying home fits some, but

many are depressed and feel isolated. Suicide, drugs, spousal and child abuse are on the increase. Hope seems to be lost.

Now is the time for the church to be the church. It is time to bring hope to the dying world! The world is searching and listening. Will we speak up? But most churches are totally unprepared to take the Gospel to those that are hurting as did the first century church.



If you or your church desire to enter His Harvest field but are unprepared or unsure as to how to accomplish this, Len

Ministries will assist you to accomplish what God has put on your heart! Call us.

International Report

Below are several reports in their own words of how our brothers in ministry are handling the Covid-19 situations in their countries:

[BUNIA, D. R. CONGO] From Pastor David Tsedha 5/17/20: "We are still staying home and folowup some chritians in their home, some Time go in radio to preach. I think it will end at the end of this month because there is not Corona in our erea. Our Big problem is not Corona but the rebels. They blocked all road and we have not support even from gouvernment or UN. They are killing people every day, burning food supply lorry, let me tell you life become very very hard, food is very expesive, we don't know what to do. Even me i Come at the end of my provision. We are gating food even one for twoo days and the halthy of children is become Bad. Please in your daily prayer, don't forget us because we know that prayer Can change all Bad situation."

[MITYANA, UGANDA] From Pastor Robert Mponye 5/13/20: "We have been locked down now for two months. We cannot physically gather as a church. Thank God we can still communicate through phone and WhatsApp on the internet. However, there's still a huge limitation especially for those who cannot afford a phone! We initially used to have small home groups but they were discouraged by the President, in an effort to enforce social distancing. I have continued to use the radio platform with the two local community radio stations which cover one third of our nation. The biggest challenge we are currently facing is that lots of people are going through food crises. Since the lockdown, we have had families struggle to feed their own. The government only gave some food to the people in Kampala - and not all were served! We are praying that we can be an answer to the prayers of those many. Please pray with us."

[ULAN-UDE, RUSSIA] From Pastor Sergey 5/19/20: "For more than 50 days of self-isolation, the part of the team continues to help people with food packages, distribute masks for free, and to take medical workers to work from remote areas. Whenever possible, we preach the gospel and distribute literature. Also every Friday now we go to different points of the city to feed the needy, they also get free masks and literature. It is an opportunity to preach the gospel and communicate more with people. Please continue to pray for us. The self-isolation requirements seem to be eased gradually but the level of sick people is still very high. One of the districts in Buryatia was completely closed due to a large outbreak. We often go to the front line, pray that God will protect us and give us an opportunity to continue to preach the gospel."

[IVANOVO, RUSSIA] From Bishop Guy Landry 5/18/20: "During this period of confinement our family is doing just fine. As you know our schedule changed. We didn't have before the home school and now we have the home school. Some of the lessons are going online at the same time and we have one computer. The church went online and this meant a lot of phone calls. The construction [on our home] stopped. The plan to equip pastors and church leaders for evangelization and mission were postponed. The finances went down. Now we are getting used to the new schedule and it seems that soon we will return to normal life. Thank you for your prayers and blessings."

[DOUALA, CAMEROON] From Rev. Daniele Yetna 5/19/20: "I realized that this time is very advantageous for evangelism because the seriousness of Covid-19 is frightening and people are more ready to come closer to God. The two diagnostic questions are hitting the target. This is indeed the time when the harvest is at the peak and I am so happy the students have picked it up also. We use confinement to send evangelism messages by social media as we cannot really do one on one contact. In Cameroon confinement is not total, we can go out wearing our face masks and taking all other preventive measures like washing of hands and applying hand sanitizers. We also try to respect social distance. The other very good news I have from this end is that my local pastor has been convinced to go back to his original calling which is Evangelism!"

[SAN PEDRO SULA, HONDURAS] From Missionary Garito Stanley 5/20/20: "We have been under country wide lockdown since March 15th. We only have 1 day every two weeks to go to grocery stores, banks and gas stations. We have been blessed in this situation as well. Our family have been together doing daily devotions and growing more in the Lord on a personal level! Our Go To Nations School of Ministry classes assignments continues. We have all 23 students that is still doing their required weekly assignments. They are 100% committed even under the circumstances."





First Presbyterian



[JACKSONVILLE, FL] Beginning in February and ending in May 2020, First Presbyterian Church, 118 E. Monroe St, Jacksonville, FL, held another semester of evangelism. Although the class stretched out a bit due to Covid-19 all three students were able to complete the class successfully. The students enrolled were Blake Brown, Twila Miller, and Ken Durkee (pictured left, in the middle) Those assisting the teacher, Len Showalter (pictured left, far left), as mentors were Jennifer Palmer (pictured left, far right), Lisa Simpson, and Carla Bitancor.

For the first six weeks, the class went to the Avenues mall and to a shopping area near Baymeadows and Southside. The results and training were very good (see "Just the Facts" on pg.4). Then the Covid-19 sequestering occurred. The second half of the semester was quite different. After a brief break, Len began teaching via Zoom. It was a bit difficult at first but soon all got the hang of it. The real challenge for

the training now dealt with

accomplishing the witnessing opportunities so that the students would become proficient with sharing the Gospel. Efforts were made to again use Zoom attempting to have the prospect join a meeting with the student and a mentor. As expected, this was not as successful as needed. Most prospects did not desire to have an unknown person enter the conversation.

The next effort was to have the mentor role play as a "new" contact. This was helpful, but still did not allow for the extemporaneous conversations which are necessary to build confidence in the students. Several efforts were

made to visit parks without mentors, and then finally as restrictions were somewhat lifted, the teams were able to get together and go to the park in groups of two - one student accompanied by a mentor.

After graduation more students will be enlisted for the next semester with a planned startup date in June. LMI



Lisa & Ken sharing at the mall



Ken & Twila share Jesus with Bashar



Fisherman Anita caught assurance



Javier & Annie received Christ

Blake & Jennifer share with Curan





Spend the week on a mission trip. Change a nation. Call LMI.



Calendar

Please note: event dates and locations are subject to change

(check lenministries.org/wanna-go)

October 19 - 23, 2020: International Evangelism School Dangriga, Belize

> November 7, 2020: LMI Gala Jacksonville, FL

January 25 - 29, 2021: International Evangelism School Kigali, Rwanda

February 1 - 5, 2021: International Evangelism School Libreville, Gabon

February 22 - 26, 2021: International Evangelism School Jacksonville, FL

May, June, & August 2021: International Evangelism School Russia

Contact LMI to join a team!

<u>~note possible travel restrictions</u> due to the Covid-19 outbreak~

A Note From Marcia...

Many of us find ourselves going through difficult times. The Covid-19 pandemic has been extremely difficult. Even our ministry had to postpone the Golf Tournament that was going to be held at TopGolf in April. Our prayer is that as we are quarantined, may we return to our first love... Jesus Christ!

Perhaps you or a loved one are going through physical challenges – emotional challenges – spiritual challenges – financial challenges – maybe you are lonely from being isolated. We need to remember that our hope, our trust, and our provision comes from God, not from man. Many are suffering. A loss of a loved one is difficult, and the grief can be overwhelming at times. It is exceedingly difficult not being able to be with our loved ones or friends during this season of isolation. May you know that you are not alone.

Len Ministries is not just an evangelistic ministry, but a praying ministry as well. If you have a prayer request, please let us know and we will make sure your prayer request is reached to people all over the world that will pray for it.

Our family is doing well, but like yours, the inability to visit one another is challenging. Try to remember – we are all in this together and will get through it.

Your Missionaries,

Len and Marcia Showalter (and Medi)



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