

The Lord works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform...

Nairobi, May 2020

Dear friends,

Our thoughts have been very much with those of you who are suffering the effects of coronavirus at this time. It is hard to comprehend the Lord's plans but we trust he is at work drawing people to himself. We are grateful for the financial and prayer support which many of you provide for us, and trust that the Lord would continue to provide for your needs too.



Wearing masks is now compulsory when out in public though Bethany doesn't seem too keen!

Here in Kenya, the coronavirus numbers are thankfully still low but many people have been affected by school closures, travel restrictions, unemployment and slow business. Those who can, are working from home and doing on-line schooling, but for those in the slums, these options are not available.

I wonder what questions you have been asking during this time? Many in Kenya think that coronavirus is a sign of the "end times". Sadly, fear of the

anticipated vaccine is being propagated as some pastors are teaching that it will be a mark of the beast (Revelation). Most people are aware that only God can help Africa if the virus really takes hold, and some are asking why God allows bad things to happen. Since public gatherings have been suspended, we are doing what we can to reach out through various on-line media. Below are some things we would value prayer for.

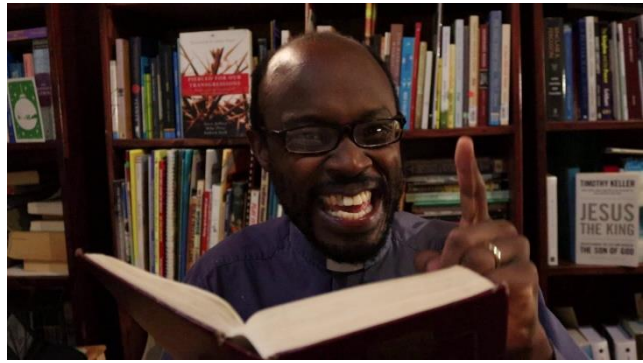
Bible studies via Zoom

Praise the Lord for people joining our studies who would not normally be able to – two who used to be in our group but have moved to neighbouring countries, and a non-Christian lady called Susie. We have invited Susie several times in the past but it has taken coronavirus and on-line meetings for her to join. Pray that her questions would be answered as we study together, and that she would come to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord. At the moment we are looking at Joseph, Job and Jesus as we consider "Why does God allow suffering?".

Short devotions on YouTube (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtPMYsl8lyY>)

Kip' has been doing regular devotions on YouTube with the aim of reaching the wider community with the good news about Jesus. He is offering expository Bible teaching that

points to a sovereign saviour who can drive out fear. These devotions have been well received, and we know one family who is following them from a town several hours away. Please pray for two men we have mentioned before - a cousin and his friend who both claim to be atheists. They are both engaging with the devotions and one also joins our Bible studies. Pray for the Lord to work in their hearts to bring repentance and faith in Christ.



Cross and Resurrection Plays

Over Easter, our children helped us produce two short plays on the cross (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rB90UKSD9M>) and resurrection (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvW4IO9d1FU>). These were well received by school friends, neighbours and Kip's relatives. One cousin, who has been antagonistic to Christian things in the past, was particularly touched. Praise the Lord for this opportunity and pray that people would see beyond cute children and grasp the message of hope in Jesus. We hope to produce more for Ascension and Pentecost.

Church

Many churches, including ours, are putting sermons on YouTube, and this week, Kip' begins a zoom Bible study specifically for the church. We are also running a zoom meeting for our church children and have been encouraged that one of the new families have joined this group. Please pray particularly for the wife from this new family, who is not yet a believer.



One of the zoom meetings with church families

Slum ministry

The children who come from the slums are much harder to reach due to the current restrictions. We hear that some are struggling with substance abuse. Please pray for wisdom in knowing how to support these children, and that God would be meeting their needs. Thankfully we can still be in touch with a few older ones who have phones. One student recently wrote with a string of questions about generational curses. Her mother has told her that she can never get married because her father never finished paying dowry. Getting married would invite a curse upon herself. Pray for wisdom as we seek to apply God's word to this deeply-held culture of fear.

iServe Africa

Kip' has been asked to teach a course on Revelation over the coming weeks via on-line classes. This will be a new challenge, not least because of frequent power cuts! Pray that all the technical things would go well and that the students would be encouraged to see Jesus as the Sovereign Lord of history. At this time of coronavirus and conspiracy theory, we pray that Christians would rest in Jesus rather than living in fear and panic.

Safety

We thank the Lord for keeping us safe and well. Recently we have had heavy rain and a huge branch fell from a tree that towers over our garden, just near where the children were playing. Pray for ongoing safety, and for the landlord to have the tree safely trimmed.

Family



Rachel's mum enjoying an afternoon walk



Home schooling

The children remain joyful and content,

and Elijah is glad to be continuing his schooling via zoom. The others are home-schooling, and they are all making the most of the garden.

Rachel's mum is enjoying being back home after weeks in hospital, but she has not been able to access on-going physio due to the current situation. We give thanks that Rachel's dad is able to care for her, and pray for the Lord to sustain them both.

With love and thanks

Kip', Rachel, Elijah, Ezra, Susanna & Bethany

For more about our work see <http://www.ufm.org.uk/member/kip-and-rachel-chelashaw/>

For regular news by WhatsApp, contact Kip' on Tel +254 722 772 700

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