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May/June 2020 Prayer Letter

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The last three months have been very strange times in our nation's history. The COVID-19 pandemic and the response to it made things very difficult for most people, and we were no exception. Throughout these past several months we were very limited in how much we could do as far as deputation is concerned. Our schedule was upended and it was harder than it usually is to schedule meetings. Even though many people have gotten sick from the virus, God kept us, and those we know and love, healthy during the pandemic. PLEASE PRAY that God will continue to keep us healthy and none of us would catch the Coronavirus.

As we prepared for months to begin the exciting and challenging process of raising support, only to have it halted before we ever got a chance to get off the ground, there was a temptation to give in to discouragement. That being said, I know it was easier for us than most missionaries on deputation, especially those that has their schedules full and had to cancel or postpone months of meeting. Having just started out, we didn't have that much scheduled, so we didn't have to postpone or cancel too many meetings.

Now that churches are beginning to reopen, things are starting to pick back up again and God is answering prayer as always. We were able to travel to Oregon for my cousin's wedding in early June and had an opportunity to drop in at a church in the area for their Sunday morning service. We are scheduled to be at their church again for a church planting conference in March of next year. PLEASE PRAY that we would be able to schedule many more meetings going forward and PRAY for all missionaries on deputation right now as they try to get back on the deputation trail.

In our previous letter I announced how happy we were to expect our fourth child in October. I rejoice and praise God that the pregnancy is going so smoothly. Holly is doing wonderfully and has full strength and energy and is continuing to be a wonderful help meet even while raising three rambunctious little girls and carrying a fourth child at the same time. PLEASE PRAY that the pregnancy would continue to go well and for a smooth and safe delivery for mom and baby.

Back in November God blessed us with a great minivan with a lot of space, but once the baby arrives, and we begin to travel full time, we will need to carry so much more. PLEASE PRAY that by the end of this year we will find a good cargo trailer for a great price.

I have had the chance to build somewhat of a relationship with a local convenient store owner over the last few months. We've had a few short conversations. PLEASE PRAY that God would give me an opportunity to share the gospel with this man, that he would be receptive, and that God will save him.

The Ward Family
Church planters to Riverside, CA