



HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE



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April 2020 Newsletter Remembering the Crown



Well, friends, this has been a very eventful month in campus ministry! We started out the month in full swing of activities. My young wife, Martha, went away for a two week trip with our older daughter, our son-in-law, and our two grandchildren, so I was holding the fort. Things became interesting, to say the least. Here's a quick rundown of what we have been doing.

English coaching was continuing with three individuals. I was also taking one of those people on drives around nice safe places as she worked on her skills to get a driver's license. Helping with English and cultural skills is a great way to enter into the lives of our new friends. It's a blessing to them and to me.

Trinity Lutheran Church has still had me doing a good deal of their home visitation, which I have been trying to spread more evenly through the month. Unfortunately, that didn't work too well in March.

In the first week of March I managed to deliver thirteen boxes of used hymnals and Bibles which are now in a shipping container bound for Kampala, Uganda! A number of people have been instrumental in getting these materials collected and paying for their shipping. Thankfully, they are on their way. We are still about \$350 short of contributions to cover the shipping cost, if anyone wants to help out.

I had opportunities to continue visiting Stephens College athletic events, with softball season moving along. The games are free, by the way, and I know the Stars would always like to have more people come out and support them.

We have been having Vespers services at the Beta Sigma Psi house during Lent, on Wednesday evenings. I also had opportunity to lead a chapel service at Calvary Lutheran High School in Jefferson City, Missouri.





On Wednesday, March 11, about the time we finished the chapel service mentioned above, the World Health Organization said they considered the Corona virus situation to be a pandemic. The University of Missouri responded during the afternoon by instructing that all class content be delivered remotely. Because this instruction was to last until after Spring Break (the week of March 22), many students took advantage of the lack of face to face classes and

disappeared from campus. I hope they were heading home. The Beta Sigma Psi house closed down almost immediately.

On Thursday, March 12, I managed to squeeze in a few last minute home visits and lay in some groceries. This was important, since on Friday, March 13, I picked up the family at the airport in Chicago. Since they had been in another country, we proceeded to put ourselves into a 14 day quarantine, which is still in progress as I write this newsletter. To make matters more complicated, it looks like one of the family members I picked up is part of our active coronavirus infection statistics (she's doing fine at present) so the quarantine is going to be more extended.



Activities have become more and more restricted over the past week and a half. As of March 24, Boone County and the City of Columbia are under a "remain home" order of indefinite length. All the schools and colleges have ended in-person meetings and classes for the remainder of the academic year.



What have we been doing in campus ministry? You will notice if you go to our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com that we have set up a means to hold weekly Bible studies as well as a brief church service online. So our Thursday study of Galatians is ongoing. We have added the Saturday 11 a.m. Matins service as a way to encourage people at a time when not many other live activities are going on. I expect to start the English coaching, but no driving coaching, next week, meeting via videochat. We're staying in touch with our participants and encouraging them to stay safe and clean. If someone is in need of emergency or end of life care, I am on call, despite the orders to remain home. Such a call has not come as yet. Our blogs and other presence remain unchanged, though I am hopefully making some improvements in their appearance and functionality.

When I remember the name of this virus which has stopped so much of the world in its tracks, I am reminded of our Lord's sufferings. The word "corona" means "crown." On the day of his crucifixion, which we remember in just about two weeks, Jesus took on the crown, a crown of thorns, placed on his head to hurt him and mock him. He took on this sign of harm even as he was bearing the harm we had coming to us. The king of glory took on the crown of pain and shame. Christians confess that Jesus has given them eternal life and hope. We confess he has taken away all our reason to fear in this world and in eternity. This is a message our world needs to hear. If there is a way we can bring encouragement and comfort to others, this is the time.



I hope some of the materials I am posting on the website and broadcasting via Zoom meetings will be helpful to Christ's people. Thank you for standing with me. Feel free to use my materials and share them with everyone!

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

This isn't a big surprise, but I will let you know giving to Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry has fallen off considerably during March. I'd like to thank the faithful few who have sent contributions, which have kept us operational, at least as much as possible. To continue operations in the long run, we do need to see an increase in giving. If you want to support our face-to-face pastoral care on site, as well as all the other ways we find to enter into the world of the participants in academia, please help us out financially.

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Checks mailed to us are deposited with no commission paid to any intermediary. Most of our contributions are actually received this way, but we can receive funds sent through Paypal or Google Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com and click on "about" and "support us."

Uganda Update:



The pandemic has hit Uganda now. Since March 20, we've seen closure of borders with other nations in the area. Travel is restricted, with a ban on public transportation, which accounts for a large amount of traffic in Uganda. I have heard from several people that there is some price gouging happening, especially in regards to food. Our friend Simon Peter has managed to deliver some bottles of sanitizer which can be used by people in the villages, if they can be persuaded to do so. One of the big challenges we expect to see is the fact that Ugandans, unlike Americans, have very little concept of personal space. Keeping a two meter distance from others is often impossible due to living situations, and is a completely unfamiliar idea to the residents.

Because of the travel restrictions, Alice will not be seeing her doctor in Nairobi in April. They are working on a way to get her medications through a pharmacy in Uganda. Times are uncertain, but we don't want to underestimate the ability of people to think outside the box and resolve problems. We will have to see what unfolds.

Upcoming Activities:

Thursdays at 1:00 pm – Bible discussion via Zoom

Thursdays 7:00 pm Greek 1 at the American Lutheran Theological Seminary (Greek 2 begins mid-April)

Saturdays 11:00 am Matins service via Zoom

We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!