



THE WYATTS

TO

SOUTH AFRICA

“AND THAT REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS SHOULD BE PREACHED IN HIS NAME...”

May 2020

Dear Prayer Partners,

I do not know if I have ever been at more of a loss on how to start and where to go with a prayer letter than I am with this one. As I am sure you have all experienced, it has been an incredibly unique past few weeks/months.

We have just entered week six of a government-imposed lock down here in South Africa. For the first five weeks you could legally leave your house only for “essential” purposes; which unless you worked in what was deemed an essential field, meant for the purpose of buying groceries, medical supplies or seeking medical treatment. This past Friday, May 1st, we went from level 5 to level 4 lock down. This allows for the opening of more businesses, mostly in the manufacturing and mining sector. The only changes for us is that we can now buy winter clothing, bedding and heaters, some more office and educational supplies as well as some electronics (cellphones, laptops and tablets) necessary for communication and work from home, and we can leave our property to exercise within 5km of home from 6am to 9am. They have however instituted a hard curfew from 8pm to 5am, that was not in place during level 5, not allowing any travel outside your home.

Please pray for South Africa. I know many of you in North America are rightfully concerned about the potential loss of liberty through the government’s response to Covid-19. I am inclined to believe this threat is even greater here in South Africa. The W.H.O had praised South Africa’s government for its ruthless and efficient response to the Pandemic, but even the U.N. has spoken against the apparent abuses of power wielded by some in authority here. There has been little to no transparency from government as to the why various regulations have been implemented, and there has been many confusing and contradicting requirements put forward.

Beyond the virus itself, the potential for government overreach and loss of liberty, some experts are predicting as much as a 9% shrinkage in South Africa’s GDP for 2020. They are expecting wide spread business closures and layoffs (called “retrenchment” here) expanding already catastrophic unemployment levels. This will lead to hunger even starvation, but also a volatile political and criminal situation.

Please pray for the furtherance of the Gospel. Outreach has been forced almost entirely online. We had already begun offering correspondence Bible Studies via email and WhatsApp. We actually had our first student complete the 25 lessons just last week. I am also trying to produce regular gospel specific content for a ministry Facebook page. You can see what I am doing at [Facebook.com/biblebaptistpe](https://www.facebook.com/biblebaptistpe). Some videos are teaching through the book of Romans, as well as couple of specifically Covid-19 related videos. I am working on a 5-part Gospel Bible study video based on Missionary Doug Hammett’s “Salvation Bible Basics” that I hope to have completed and up this month. Through utilizing Facebook advertisements several thousand people have been shown the content, and one video, “Fear, Covid 19 and the New Normal”, has put a gospel presentation in front of more than

13,000 people and has received 357 Video plays (Unfortunately that does not necessarily mean they have watched the whole video.) Our page likes(almost exclusively native South Africans,) has gone from about 150 at the start of the Lockdown to over 400 now. We desire to continue sowing seed and trusting God to give increase. We are probably months away from being able to engage in public ministry or public gathering. There is also a concern as the lockdown continues that it will be difficult for people to afford to buy Data for internet access, making even online ministry difficult.

I would like to say a special thank you for your faithful support during this time. I know many of you have been facing trying circumstances yourselves and yet several have taken time to reach out and let us know that you are praying for us and to see how we are faring and if we have any special needs during this trying time. Your faithfulness is a tremendous encouragement and blessing. We have also been greatly encouraged by churches seeking new and different ways to minister in a unique time.

We also have reason to be thankful for the Lord's timing in these events. Due to the recent completion of a furlough and renewal of paperwork, we were not faced with the difficult situation of deciding if we had to leave the country to avoid potentially being here illegally as all processing of visas and renewals was shut down. Two missionary families we know personally had to leave for this reason and have no idea when they will even be able to apply to come back. Pray for missionaries, as I know missionaries in South Africa are not the only ones facing this difficulty.

Lastly, I would ask you to please pray for the people of South Africa. Many in South Africa live on next to nothing already and the current situation is only making this worse. Please pray for God's people, that their faith would fail not. Pray for us that we would abide in the vine that we might bring forth fruit, even in a fast-changing world that we do not fully understand how to navigate.

As a missionary friend said recently, "I find myself consciously listening for a trumpet sound from the sky." May He find us watching.

For His Glory,

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