

February 28, 2019

Dear family and friends

Thank you for your prayers over these very busy months of pastoral ministry, evangelism and church planting training and Christmas programs. We have seen God's gracious acts at work in each of our lives, in those involved in our church and those we minister along with. We hope you will be encouraged by our partnership and that it would lead to continued partnership with us for the future as God leads us.

Towards the end of 2018 we were blessed to have a team from Downtown Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina who helped us minister in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. We were able to host 67 men from different parts of Chhattisgarh some traveling over 8 hours to be introduced to the Reformed Faith and the Presbyterian Church. This is their first step towards them being a part of the training of Presbyterian Church Planting Network of India. We will very soon start to train close to about 40 of these men for the next one year. We are in need of teachers who will co teach with me. We are working to find a place to conduct these sessions for three days in a month that also has facilities for the men to stay and have their food.



In November I had to teach the men of BPC by default at our Men's Retreat because our scheduled speaker cancelled at the very last moment. Dr. Doriani's book, Man of God in Society a book I had read almost a decade ago was what God led me to for ideas and after reading it again I was able to come up with 6 messages for our men.



Praise God this was well received. I will be doing another retreat at Rock Bible Centre, Muttom for students who have studied there in the past. We expect about 50 to attend in April. Another two congregations have asked me if I could do this for their men.

The tracts we printed about two years ago have opened doors for me to teach on evangelism and now we are completely out of tracts in Tamil. We want to reprint in Tamil and also translate the tract into Hindi and print them as it would be a great help to our Church Planters in the states of Maharashtra, Jharkhand and others in ministry in the north as well.

We are excited about a new Church Planting work in the city of Chennai, four years ago Christopher David came into our lives and Bangalore Presbyterian Church decided to support him to study at Presbyterian Theological Seminary. This year he will graduate and his passion to see an English congregation that lives and preaches grace is as it was when he came to us. God willing he will graduate in May and join us for a two year internship in Bangalore. During this time he will have ministry experience and so some of the spade work to plant the congregation in Chennai. Please do pray for this young man and a team that he seeks to put together before the proposed launch in 2021. Though we have planted vernacular congregations in Chennai this opportunity is particularly sweet as over the last 25 years in ministry many have asked us for an English speaking reformed congregation in Chennai and we have had to say we don't know of any.

On the family front our eldest, Jesudhas will God willing graduate from Covenant College this May and is seeking opportunities to work in the States. Our daughter Elsie didn't get into medical school last year, so she decided to take a gap year and prepare better and do her entrance exam for medical college again this year in May. Shirley and Elsie have been preparing diligently and our prayer is that God would open the doors for her to study medicine to be a medical missionary in north India. Our youngest Joseph is doing his 10th grade exams in March, his results will then dictate what subjects he can take in his 11th and 12th. He loves playing basketball and has been in several tournaments and represents his school. Shirley continues to help with administrative work and takes care of the home.

On a personal note I have started cycling regularly for the last 6 months. Sometime last year I weighed in at 107 kg and I just couldn't fit into many of my clothes and I know it was making me tired, lazy and not able to concentrate. Shirley and the kids got me a Mi Fitbit and got me to use it. I am now at 102 kg and committed to losing another 22 kg. I am cycling about 4.5 miles to 6 miles every day when I am in Bangalore to reach my goal.

Pray with us for the quick and complete recovery of BPC's Assistant Pastor.

Pray for my speaking to about 50 men in Muttom, Tamil Nadu in April.

Pray for preparations to train the men in Chhattisgarh our 10 module Church Planting course.

Pray for our three children who are in critical junctures in their lives that they would honour and glorify God in all they do.

Pray that Shirley and I would be drawn to, appreciate more and be filled with awe of with God's grace to us and serve out of joy and gratitude.

Grateful to God that we can call you family, friends and partners in the gospel.

Paul Billy for Shirley, Jesudhas, Elsie and Joseph

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