

Dear Friends,

We want to say how thankful we are for the incredible faithfulness of your support through the uncertainty of a global pandemic. These are strange times, but you are hearing so much about plans and phases and proper procedures that I only want to say this: Our family is in good health and good spirits. This church that God has blessed us to be a part of since its first meeting is going on and growing stronger through these times. We trust that God has a great plan for how he is using these times in each of our lives. He is on the move around the world, and His work will be marvelous!

During the lockdown, we have not been able to have our regular prison ministry, English outreaches, market outreaches, or literature distribution. The one seasonal opportunity we have been afforded was through our church preparing food baskets for families that have been affected, and in certain cases helping families to survive through the lockdown. With so few activities to report, I want to just take a moment to share with you what God has been doing internally in me.

The last several months have been restful in some ways. After completing the move from our former location to having a single building, part of me was wanting to hunker down, find a comfort zone, and take it easy for a while. At the same time, most of this year, my heart has been feeling a tug to launch out into

deeper waters. Our church has been so blessed in the past year, and the believers have truly begun to BE the church. So where does that leave me? I am in a new stage, where more of the people coming into the church have been reached, or are being reached out of Buddhism by someone other than myself. We are at the threshold of starting the process of multiplication. “So how do I move forward?” Has been the prevailing question on my mind.

At the same time that I can feel a transition point from church plant to multiplying church, I have a limitation to how far I can see ahead. This is not comfortable. I want to plan. I want to know. I want to set targets and establish strategies to reach them. But in my heart, the Holy Spirit is teaching me to walk and to lead in a different way. I am learning to simply take the next step, without seeing every possible outcome.

That leads me to a very specific prayer request for wisdom. The decisions made in the coming season will have a huge impact on the future dynamic of our church. As humans, we want signs that point us in the right direction, but I am learning to be content with mile markers that show us we are on the path God has chosen for us.

Also, please pray for 3 adults, Tam, Nut, and Bay who are very close to those first steps of following Christ demonstratively through baptism and professing their faith to their families and community. We are hoping God will not only give them boldness, but also bring much glory to Himself in the process. God knows the aim of your prayers, and it has been our experience that when you all pray together, God moves mightily on our behalf!

With love,

The Ballou Family



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