



Dear Praying Friends,

September 22, 2020

**W**e are thankful for God's goodness to us! In our tri-state area of the Northeast people are going back to work, a few children are going back to school, and the traffic is certainly in full swing. God's grace is sustaining and encouraging us! I want to see things move along, people come to church, and get back busy for the Lord. But we have had to be patient, and longsuffering. It breaks our heart to see people drift away, and I think of how it breaks the Lord's heart. Again, we are encouraged in our ministry here using our opportunities to witness, and being faithful to minister the Word in our services!

**W**e have continued our livestreaming of services. **Ramesh**, a young man in our church, does a great job, and works to improve the quality. We are meeting, and praise the Lord, with no trouble. We have been safe wearing masks, disinfecting, using hand sanitizer, and checking temperatures. No one, to my knowledge, has become infected with Covid-19 who has come to services. It is really becoming rare here to hear of someone we know being infected. We were not able to have our park services in June, but **Bro. Bill Smith** came and preached for us for four days. People have been slowly returning to church. Some of our elderly are coming and are sure enjoying being in the "live service". We were not able to have teen camp this year. We had everything planned and ready to go for Junior Camp with teens invited to have a combined camp. Several of the staff of the camp we use, came down with Covid and camp was cancelled. We are grateful **Pastor Mark Sage** in Ohio allowed us to bring our teens to stay in their church building! They saw the Ark Encounter, the Creation Science Museum, and the sights of Cincinnati. **Justin** preached to them several nights, using the time to stir the hearts of our teens for the Lord! On August 30, we planned to be our first night of VBS. We have only had two children come to services, outside of our grands, all summer. We contacted children, teens, parents several weeks ahead. We went over all our precautions. We did not know if any would come! I really believe our faithfulness of having VBS in previous years made a real difference. We had a great turnout and registered 69 total K-4 kids thru 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It really was a huge encouragement to us all! We did not have any professions but the preaching, Bible lessons, and missionary story were a building time for people! Since then we have continued with our children's and teen's Sunday School classes, and children's church!

**W**e are praying for God's will in a church building! Real estate costs have risen with interest rates being low. We are looking and pursuing buildings to consider! **Julie** and **I** have discussed many times how we believe it would have been a hardship upon our church if we would have purchased the Hindu temple last August. God knows! Covid has caused us to have only 30-40 % of our normal attendance. God has been faithful, financially enabling us to even pay down some debts. I am very mindful about all that churches and individuals have given to our building fund. We want to be good stewards with what has been entrusted to us. Please continue to pray for God to show us exactly what He desires for us in a building. In much prayer God has helped me to have strong faith that He will help us find the best building for us in His timing!

**M**y sister **Sheila** has faithfully driven a van over the years, picking up people for church. She was coming home after dropping everyone off on Sunday afternoon, July 5<sup>th</sup>. She was only a few blocks from home, when the van was hit broadside by a car travelling at high speed on a backstreet. Sheila only had bruising from the seatbelt. The van was totaled by our insurance adjuster. We are so grateful no one was hurt. We covet your prayers for our needed everyday safety! By the way, we have not been near any rioting, or protests.

**W**e were able to go to Oklahoma in July! We got some rest and spent a wonderful time with our three older children's families, and oh, those grandkids! We ate some good Tex-Mex, which we do not have much of here. **Julie's** mother came to see us from Arkansas. **Mary Lou**, my dear mother-in-law, was baptized just a few weeks ago!! Pray for her as she has some serious health issues. We had to quarantine 14 days upon our return. Oklahoma was put on NY's travel advisory just a week before our trip. Life is certainly more tedious now, but we remain hopeful, because our Lord is faithful, and so good to us every day! Thank you for your prayers, and investment in us here in New York City!

In Christ,

*Dana & Julie*

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