



# RIPE *for Harvest*

WORLD OUTREACH

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## June 2020 MINISTRY UPDATE

Hello Friends and Family,

The picture above was taken during the recent and very unique 2020 Commencement exercises at the Village Christian Academy. The families of our seniors were seated in "pods" of no more than 7 people and distanced at least six feet from other family pods throughout our auditorium. The administration and faculty entered the auditorium robed and masked to take their places on stage, seated the appropriate distance apart. Then, the graduates entered robed and masked as they found their seats (also six feet away from their classmates). Once we were all gathered, the masks came off and for the majority of ceremony, it looked and sounded almost "normal." Our Salutatorian and Valedictorian gave their speeches, seniors presented their parents with a rose while a reflective slide show played featuring pictures of the students school career (a VCA tradition), and our principal spoke.

One unique element was watching a video of the High School Choir (pictured on the right). They prepared a virtual performance, whereby each singer individually recorded themselves and the song was edited into really an amazing performance. Oh, and yes, that's their Superintendent singing along with them in the middle of the screen. (If we are connected on Facebook you can view and listen to the video at <https://www.facebook.com/toby.a.travis>) or on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/wfIz9HafOA>.



The Graduation ceremony concluded with seniors crossing the stage, giving their masked Superintendent an elbow bump, and receiving their diploma from the masked and gloved Principal. Tassels changed sides and the proclamation was made. Their High School career was complete! And so, too, thankfully, was the 2019-2020 school year!

Now, our full attention can be given to completing our *Reopening Plan* for what we hope will be an August start, although there are hints that our Governor may issue a new *stay-at-home* order and delay the start of the school year in North Carolina. As a school administrator, I can tell you that we have never faced anything as challenging as this. There are so many complexities and elements to take into consideration. Frankly, I wish we had more than just a few weeks to figure it all out. But, we've committed the process to prayer, we are seeking wise counsel, and we'll do our best to figure it all out asap. Your prayers are deeply appreciated.



In the next week or so, we are planning to spend time with family in Pennsylvania, especially with my Mom (pictured here with Tannia). Mom has had some recent health challenges, and I know she too would appreciate your prayers. Thank you.

Next month we'll update you on the various international ministry projects (e.g., Dominican Republic and Vietnam). Until then, thank you again for your ongoing partnership with us—and for helping us to help so many others!

Yours for Christ, - Toby (for Tannia and Emma too!)