



May 2020 MINISTRY UPDATE

Hello Friends and Family,

Well, here we are in week 9 of the pandemic. It all seems a bit surreal doesn't it? Whenever we are forced to be still, whether through illness, injury, loss of employment, or a global pandemic, it is also an opportunity to clear our minds and hearts and focus on what ultimately matters in this life—our relationship with Jesus Christ. I shared in a [recent vlog](#) with our school community the value and gift of time to focus on this passage from Philippians 4:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your **gentle spirit** be known to all men. **The Lord is near**. Be **anxious for nothing**, but in everything by **prayer and supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will **guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**.

In a time of potential great anxiety for us all, the key to guarding our hearts and minds from that anxiety and knowing the peace of God is to rejoice! Be gentle in spirit! Know that we are not abandoned. Intentionally set your anxiety aside. Pray and be transparent about your concerns to God, yet remain thankful and recognize our many blessings. In numerous studies on happiness, multiple studies have revealed that the **happiest people on planet Earth are those who demonstrate continual gratitude**. How do we experience peace in the midst of the unknown? Focus on all that we can be thankful for!

The picture on the right (with the embarrassingly white legs of yours truly) is of a nice surprise that appeared on our lawn a few days ago. A thank you sign posted there by our Parent Teacher Organization at Village Christian Academy. **Tannia and I wish we could plant a similar sign in each of your yards!** We are so very thankful for you and how God has met the needs of our family and ministry here in Fayetteville and around the world through you. **THANK YOU!**



I am also thankful for the wonders of modern technology, which has allowed me to continue mentoring and training other Christian school leaders around the world. Below is a Zoom screenshot from a recent session with the lanka Vilanova (upper right) and her



leadership team of the Christian Community School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. lanka, and her husband, Atillo, began their ministry 6 years ago serving just a few students from a small number of families. Today, they have over 100 students and their current facility is near capacity! They, and their team want to express their **thanks to you for your support so that I can be an ongoing support to them!**

Through our partnership CCS has experienced tremendous growth of their ministry within a very difficult and challenging setting. And now, with the pandemic, obviously, they have had to close their doors like all

schools and can not currently provide any type of campus-based support to families. However, they are committed to continue to support Christian families through virtual or "remote learning" - something we are all becoming experts in!

Please continue to pray for CCS, as well as the **Quisqueya Christian School** in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, another international Christian school that I serve as an adjunct to their leadership team. **Their situation is perhaps the most difficult that I am aware of in the world.** It is yet unknown if they will be able to recover from the current crisis. Please pray for God's provision, and for wisdom to know how best to support, counsel, and guide these ministries through these troubling times. Thank you.



Despite the challenges of our ongoing ministry in Latin America, **God has provided another international opportunity**

of truly an extraordinary level in Vietnam! This opportunity came through my association with the [Global School Consulting Group](#), and I am **not at liberty to share all of the details** with you about those leading the project. Vietnam is officially a communist and atheist state. Regardless, a large segment of the population are people of faith. The three main religions in Vietnam are Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Sometimes, they are grouped together as one religion called the "three teachings" or "tam giáo." According to several sources the Christian population (mostly Catholic) makes up between 6 to 8% of the population.

A group of Christian-owned business leaders have come together to invest in and **develop quality schools as a means to intentionally transform and develop their nation**, as well as have an impact for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Vietnam is a rapidly developing country (at least they were pre-pandemic) and one of the areas of growth is in education. This group of Christian business leaders have already successfully launched two schools, with a plan to open 5 more within the next 5 years; **reaching an enrollment of over 10,000 students!** As part of the initial launch, the school owners were able to staff the entire campus through a Christian teacher placement organization. So, although

the school cannot function or operate overtly as a Christian school, through the intentional staffing of the school, they are able to develop a learning environment that exudes Christ-like character and opportunities to build relationships with students and families.

In collaboration with a team of Christian school consultants, we have the opportunity to develop a professional development plan that ensures the school system is pursuing the highest standards. In addition, I have the unique opportunity of working directly with their senior leaders (i.e., superintendent and principals), providing training and mentoring utilizing the [TrustED](#) framework, which was **developed on biblical principles** (though not overtly promoted as such ala "John Maxwell style"). The project will launch in June as we implement a number of survey and assessment tools to identify the school's areas of greatest need. Next we will begin a series of online virtual meetings, and once travel restrictions relax, plan our first onsite visit. This is truly **an opportunity to be a part of impacting the transformation of a country!** I am so honored and humbled to have a part.



Finally, for the "Family News" update—last weekend we ventured out for our first time to Myrtle Beach, which is only about 2 hours from our home. It was great to take in the sea air and with "social distancing" enjoy time together as well as with my step-brother, Marty, who lives in there. **Emma had a fantastic time.** She loves the sand and the water. We are so thankful for this get-away blessing in our "back yard!" We are hopeful that in the months and years to come we will enjoy this blessing more and more.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with us—and for helping us to help so many others!

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

Answers to Questions about Electronic Contributions

Q. What is electronic contribution?

A. Electronic contribution is an automatic transfer program that allows you to make contributions **without** writing a single check.

Q. What are the advantages of donating electronically?

A. It saves you time! It simplifies your life! You also help the agency office stabilize its budget and save money.

Q. How is my contribution automatically deducted from my account?

A. Once you authorize the transfer, your specified contribution is electronically transferred directly from your checking account to the RFH's account.

Q. When will my contribution be deducted from my account?

A. On the date you specify...6th or 22nd of each Month or Quarter.

Q. If I don't write checks, how do I keep my checkbook balance straight?

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date.

Q. Without a canceled check, how can I prove I made my contribution?

A. Your bank statement gives you an itemized list of electronic transfers. Also, Ripe For Harvest will continue to send you a receipt.

Q. Is electronic contribution risky?

A. Electronic contribution is less risky than check contribution. It cannot be lost, stolen or destroyed in the mail. It has an extremely high rate of accuracy.

Q. What if I change bank accounts?

A. Ripe for Harvest will provide a new authorization form to complete.

Q. How much does electronic contribution cost?

A. It costs you nothing and saves you time!

Q. What if I try electronic contribution and don't like it?

A. You can cancel your authorization for electronic contribution at any time by notifying Ripe for Harvest by phone. But, once you've enjoyed the convenience, time and money savings of electronic contribution, we doubt you'll want to go back to making contributions the way you did before.

Q. How do I sign up for electronic contribution?

A. Complete and sign the authorization form below and send to Ripe for Harvest along with a voided check or a savings deposit slip.

Note: Contributions are solicited with the understanding that *Ripe For Harvest World Outreach* has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.

Contributor Information:

Name(s) on Account (please print) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contribution designation Ripe for Harvest account: Toby A. Travis #20245

Contribution Amount \$ _____

Please debit my ongoing contribution from my (check one):

Checking Account – **attach a voided check over the Q & A section above**

Savings Account – **contact your financial institution for the appropriate Routing Number**

Monthly-6th of the month beginning _____

Monthly -15th of the month beginning _____

Quarterly-6th of the month beginning _____

Quarterly-15th of the month beginning _____

I authorize **Ripe for Harvest** and **Integrity Bank & Trust** to process debit entries from my account. I understand that this authorization will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification of its termination by calling 719-488-4121.

Authorized signature on my account: _____ Date: _____

RETURN TO: RIPE FOR HARVEST

PO Box 487, Monument CO 80132-0487

Phone: 719-488-4121 Fax: 719-955-4010

Make a copy of the completed form for your records.



Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ designated for the ministry of *Toby & Tannia Travis #20245*.

RIPE *for Harvest*

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