

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who is the Christ. The grace and peace of God be with you all each moment of every day. Indeed we are living in interesting and volatile times. People everywhere are fearing the corona virus; tornadoes and earthquakes leave destruction and death in their wakes; refugees flee for their lives in a hope for a better future, yet many end in death; workers here face deportation in never before seen numbers; and the list goes on... But what does this mean to us? What does this mean to the child of God?

One thing we know for certain – we can trust that God is still in control and He remains sovereign over all things. It is so easy to get distracted or side-tracked into a fatalistic or cynical mindset. It is so easy, albeit wrongly, to think that nothing will ever change and the world and people will always remain the same. Isn't that precisely what Peter speaks out against - mockers who deny God's imminency in this world? So many times in God's word, we see the hopelessness of a situation, and all of a sudden God steps in and shows His other-than-ness and grace. The book of Acts comes to mind, when all looks bleak and hopeless. Christians were met with nothing but persecution, pain, and threats. Saul was gathering all believers to be brought and executed because of their faith in Jesus; he continued to threaten their lives and even had legal documents proving his right to do this. At this point, I am sure there were many pessimists who would think, the church is never going to grow. It will keep decreasing by both death and fear. We should just close up shop, there is no hope for us!

Then, out of no where, God steps in and Saul can do nothing but ask to whom he is speaking! The persecutor becomes the persecuted! The enemy becomes a friend and fellow worker! And just like that, by God's grace, "the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed PEACE, BEING BUILT UP; and going in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it CONTINUED TO INCREASE." (ACTS 9:31) What is God's plan? His plan is to make worshippers out of rebels; to have praises sung to Him from every tongue and nation – even in countries that try to squelch out the truth.

Last year we taught through the Old Testament at our church, we showed who Messiah is and taught about His purpose for returning a second time. This year, we are entering into the New Testament. As a church we will be making much of Easter and the week preceding the Resurrection Sunday. It is our desire to see a deepening in faith and love for God, as well as seeing many more of our unbelieving friends come to know Christ as their Savior. Please pray for us as we plan. May the Lord go before us, prepare the way for many to attend and participate. May His Spirit even now be working and preparing hearts to receive His word. Pray for enthusiastic attendance and for God to work powerfully through this teaching of His word and the glorious things, the extents He went to, to make a people for Himself to bless. May we together in unity stand in awe before God and understand the depths and the lengths and the width and the breadth of his love for us. May this holiday season illustrate these truths!

For the joy set before us,
Joe, Karyn, and Angela Cavn

Praises and Prayers:

- Praise God for those who have been led to partner in this ministry with us. Pray for God to continue to provide for our spiritual, physical, and financial needs.
- Praise for our friends Ak and Naz who have expressed they find peace in coming to our meetings; may they see that full peace and joy comes only through a relationship with Christ.
- Praise God for our 4 week pilates class. Few attended; however, God's word was proclaimed and we know He will use this seed.
- Praise God for His word and our new series of corporate study and worship in 1 Cor. And Acts. May God illuminate these truths to us and change us all through this study.
- Praise God for our soldier, Ismail. He has returned for a short leave with wonderful news of how God has protected him, blessed him, and used him mightily to share Christ boldly with his fellow soldiers.
- Pray for Faruk to have diligence and act on his desires to draw closer to God and grow in his faith.
- Pray for Kekik to have strength and endurance to continue on in her faith and grow in Christ. May the worries of this world not choke out her desire for God and His righteousness.
- Pray for Habil who is serving his soldier duty. He was unable to obtain a place here in Ankara due to insufficient scores on his tests. Therefore, he will be moved to the far east and separated from his wife. May God use this trial to open the eyes of his heart to who He is. Also pray that his wife who is a believer would grow in her faith in God during this difficult time.
- Pray for believers to work diligently to rightly divide the word of truth.
- Pray for some within our fellowship who are prone to gossip and jealousies. May the Lord show them their faults and grant them repentance. May they desire unity within the church and love their brothers and sisters in the Lord.
- Pray for those who attend the English Sit to seek Jesus and a relationship with Him.
- Pray for Vali to grow in love and knowledge of Jesus.
- Pray for our friend Selma who just had a heart attack. May this be a wake-up call to seek God with her whole heart.
- Pray for God to grant repentance to our brother Bilal who has been sewing discord within the church. May he turn to God and love his brothers and understand the deep, sweet, undeserved grace of our God.
- Pray for our new and old friends. May God grant them eyes to see and ears to hear and faith to believe.
- Pray for God to use our social media to guide us to His elect so that we can have the privilege of sharing God's Good News with them.
- May we not grow weary of well-doing.