

Dear Family and Friends,

Warmest wishes to you all from across the ocean, and we pray that your celebration of our Lord's Resurrection was blessed! So true is the proverb which says, "The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps (Pv 16:9). As we shared in our last letter, about a month before Easter, we had planned many activities for our church to celebrate and experience together as a body: the days leading up to our Lord's arrest, His crucifixion, and His resurrection 3 days later.

Alas, how rapidly things can change! Instead of our grand celebrations together, all associations (which is the category our ministry falls under), restaurants, bars, coffee houses, cafes, and schools were ordered to shutdown. 31 cities are completely quarantined and we have rolling shutdowns, which are said to continue for a while, where no one is allowed out of their houses for 48 hours at a time. This has been ordered during weekends. All "prayer gatherings" and sports are shut down until further notice as well. That includes all churches and centers like ours. It has been difficult, especially for our young believers. We have been on quarantine for about 5 weeks now and unable to gather together physically. It is very strange to see a city of almost 8 million people with empty streets. About 3.5 weeks ago, people over 65 were not allowed outside. This has been a challenge for some of our elderly saints that have no family around them. A week or so later, picnics, parks, fishing and sports became forbidden. As of 2.5 weeks ago, children under age 20 are not allowed outside and if you go to the market or Bazar you must wear a mask and vehicles are not allowed in or out of 31 different "hot" cities. The Covid19 cases are on a rapid rise - It is estimated that the country in which the number of new Covid19 cases is currently rising the fastest in the world is presently Turkey. Due to this situation, we will be having another 4 day shutdown this week.

We have been keeping in touch with our believers via WhatsApp and phone and other media, and we continue to read through the bible together, but morale is definitely very down and economically it is very difficult for many many people. It is suspected that true numbers of cases and deaths are not being reported, and our tests from China are not even very accurate - It is about 30% accuracy. A friend of ours who came to know the Lord through our Center works as a lab tech in one of the largest hospitals in Ankara and she said sometimes they wear masks, sometimes not. There are many people expressing symptoms and they don't test them, they just send them home. She told me yesterday that she sees so much death these recent days that it is difficult to get the sadness out of her mind. Praise the Lord she is a believer and her hope is in Christ and has an opportunity to share this hope with her coworkers and family. It has been an honor for us to walk along side her during this time and help bear the burden and show her in God's word the glorious hope that He is and gives.

Electronic media has been very active during this time, and we have had opportunity to share with curious onlookers of our instagram and facebook. We are in the process of organizing a YouTube channel for some bible lessons. Prayer for wisdom and guidance in this is appreciated. We have a couple of elderly that we are trying to follow up on during this time of quarantine. They are alone and not allowed out of their houses, which makes it extremely difficult if you don't have anyone living with you that can go shopping for you. Also, the social isolation is quite difficult for them as they struggle with loneliness. Some news channels say domestic violence toward women (in the large cities) has also increased by 40% due to the stay home decree. In all this, we pray God would reveal Himself to many hurting souls and that they would find their rest and peace in Him. Also, pray that we would be able to use this time wisely and prepare for how the Lord will be using us in the coming weeks, months, and so on as He changes many of the dynamics in

this country and the world.

Through all of this, we remind each other and our flock that God is still in control. Interestingly, we just finished a 2 year study of Revelation with our group - we can see the birth pangs of the last days. It is very interesting. May the Lord tarry and bring many many more souls to Himself and may we be light and salt to this hurting world. Come Lord Jesus, come!

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

Praises and Prayers:

- Praise God for His sovereignty over ALL things.
- Praise God for internet and capability of electronic communication.
- Praise God for good health and sound mind.
- Pray for each of our brothers and sisters who are anxious during this difficult time of quarantine – many of which are not being paid. May the Lord provide for all of our needs, both physical and spiritual.
- Pray for those we have shared with who are on the fence. May this be what wakes them up to their need for Christ.
- Pray for us to be an encouragement to our brothers and sisters while it is still called today.
- 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.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance as we prepare various media for outreach and discipling.
- Pray for all of us to use this time to draw nearer our Lord and find our utter joy and completeness in Him.
- May our speech and actions be dripping with the grace of God and sweetly desired by those we come in contact with. May He be glorified and known throughout this and all nations.