



Care & Share

WAITING ON GOD

By Dr Marno Retief

I don't know about you, but for me one of the most frustrating aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic has been waiting. Waiting for restrictions to ease. Waiting for the next alert level to be announced. Waiting for international borders to open. It seems the pandemic has forced people all over the world to become better at waiting. As I write this reflection, sitting here in Bellville, South Africa, I am waiting to hear from the High Commission of Canada to South Africa in Pretoria about my work permit application. As is the case with most countries internationally, Canada's visa processing times have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Receiving the call as the new pastor of Emo CRC at the beginning of May 2020 has been one of the most exciting experiences in my journey of faith, yet simultaneously one of the most challenging experiences. I believe I have clearly sensed God calling me to move all the way from South Africa to Canada to take up the pastoral leadership of Emo CRC. Yet, here I am – almost five months since receiving the call to Emo CRC – still waiting for my Canadian work permit. I sometimes feel like the man who prayed, "Lord, please give me patience, but give it to me now!" My experience of waiting has reminded me of the fact that, as we seek to follow the Spirit of God's direction in our lives, part of that obedience to the Spirit is learning to wait on God.

Waiting is not just a lived reality in our lives, there are instances where the Word of God commands it. For example, the psalmist declares, "Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord" (Ps. 27:14, NLT). Elsewhere the psalmist says, "Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act" (Ps. 37:7, NLT). Scripture even speaks of those who wait on God as being blessed. The prophet Isaiah addresses the people of Judah with these words: "So the Lord must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help" (Isa. 30:18, NLT). In Luke 12, Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who await His Second Coming in a spiritually prepared state. Moreover, the Bible is full of characters who had to wait on God – think of people such as Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Job, and David, to name but a few – all of them had to wait quite some time before seeing the promises of God fulfilled in their lives.

In this season of my life, Abraham's journey of faith is especially inspiring to me, most probably because, like me, he experienced a clear call from the Lord to leave his country and travel to a new country. Genesis 12:1-4 (NLT) records:

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.



Notice how Abraham's name is still Abram when God calls him. But also notice how Abraham is seventy-five years old when God calls him. We only read about the Lord giving Abram his new name in Genesis 17, where the text mentions he is ninety-nine years old (Gen. 17:1). Some quick calculations help us discover how Abram waited twenty-four years before the Lord gave him his new name of Abraham. Why is this significant? In the ancient world, a person's name was highly significant – it often revealed something about their identity and destiny. Moreover, if you knew someone's name, this meant you were able to relate to them personally. Going a step further – giving someone a new name indicated that you had authority over that person. By changing Abram's name to Abraham, the Lord not only signalled His authority over him but gave him a new identity and deepened His relationship with Abraham.

Whereas the Hebrew meaning of Abram is 'exalted father,' Abraham means 'father of many.' Recall that the Lord's original promise to Abram in Genesis 12 was that He would make him "a great nation" (Gen. 12:2, NLT). Yet, in Genesis 17, the Lord expands this promise by telling Abraham he will be "the father of a multitude of nations" (Gen. 17:4). Interestingly, Genesis 17:1 marks the first time in Scripture where the Lord reveals himself to someone as 'El Shaddai' ('God Almighty'), emphasising how it is His power at work in Abraham's life. It is the power of God that enabled Abraham to persevere in his faith. As noted above, it took twenty-four years before the Lord granted Abram his new name – in essence, his new spiritual identity – as Abraham. Waiting on God is difficult but – just like in Abraham's life – God is busy shaping our spiritual character and identity throughout this process of waiting. When we find ourselves struggling to understand why God's promises in our lives seem to be taking so long, let us remember He is busy shaping us, molding us, according to His will and purpose. The Lord knows precisely what is required for the specific role to which He has called you and me. Moreover, He alone knows when we are ready to step into the destiny to which He has called us. May we embrace this truth while we are waiting on God.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

This will be the first “Care & Share” after six months. Over the past six months, we were updated through emails sent out by Jeannette and the clerk. Thank you for all the work done behind the scenes.

Recently I went through some papers and found the “Groundbreaking” of our present church building. It took place 25 years ago on Thanksgiving Day, October 8, 1995. Twenty-five years ago, we made promises to God. Several times we said, “We dedicate ourselves to you, O Lord”. We were all so willing to do all things to God’s glory. Today, I almost think we need a revival. The Education Committee is planning to have Bible studies again. Will that not be nice if we all signed up to study the Bible. Not what we think, but what the Bible says. As Dr. Marno says when we listen to his Bible reading, “think that Jesus is standing right beside us and says what scripture reads”.

We are approaching Reformation Day and Halloween. With my Dutch background, we did not do anything for Halloween but the kids do like it here. Have a fun filled and safe evening.

As we look towards Reformation Day, we remember how important it is to be relieved from sin not by paying to Tetzal (and the church) but by knowing that our sins have been paid through Jesus’ blood. What a courageous act that Martin Luther did. He was a German theologian and religious reformer who was the catalyst of the 16th-century Protestant Reformation.

Our condolences to Linda and her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, with the passing of John Esselink on August 31st. After John and Linda were married 66 years ago, their family grew to become a large family. There has been a lot said about John already—Candy Man, etc. He was a child of God. He showed that and we all can follow his example.

I was thinking about all the members we have lost through the years. They have showed us the direction to go, in following Jesus, obeying and trusting Him.

Death Closes One Door and Opens Another

Death is just a natural thing
like closing a door.

As we start upon a journey
to a distant shore.

So, let your grief be softened
and yield not to despair.

You have only placed your loved one
in the loving Father’s care.

Helen Steiner Rice

With the weddings of Zach and Brittany Koomans and Gerald and Cassandra Wielinga this past summer, we welcome Brittany and Cassandra to our church family. We hope you feel at home and loved in our church family.

Welcome also to Doug & Rindy and Lucas Veldhuisen. Congratulations Dr. Doug with your full license to practice veterinary medicine and keep our local animals healthy.

Congratulations to Arend and Wilma Wielinga as they were blessed with three new great grandchildren this summer, all girls. Ray and Susan became first time grandparents to Madeline and Abigail. John and Arlene had their second grandchild, Hailey. Arend and Wilma are thankful for the technology that allows that to communicate and see pictures of these little ones.

Congratulations to Archie and Eleanor Wiersema with the safe arrival of their grandson, Atwood Arjen Weldemar, born to Candace and Ryan Karhurt in Winnipeg on July 21st. Atwood is a brother to Azalea.

Please remember to keep Nathan Bujold, a grandson of Larry & Dove Stahn, in your prayers. He suffered serious burns and multiple broken bones in his left arm after an accident. Pray for relief from pain and complete healing.

Glenda Veltman’s new address is: Skilled Nursing Facility, 2280 Byron View Drive, Room 210, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA 49315. Ph: 616-426-3328.

To everyone who is celebrating birthdays in October, we wish you a Happy Birthday! Our seniors celebrating birthdays are Eleanor Wiersema on the 2nd, Ann Fluit on the 10th, Gertie Kamerman on the 15th, Sidney Smid on the 16th and Dorothy Wiersema on the 17th.

Also to those celebrating anniversaries, we wish you a Happy Anniversary! Those celebrating more than 40 years are Rudy & Marie Sinninghe with their 43rd anniversary on the 27th.

Happy Thanksgiving!! What a great summer we have had and today, being the first day of Fall, we can be thankful for so much. Below is a poem I would like to share with you from Helen Steiner Rice:

A Thanksgiving Prayer
by Helen Steiner Rice

Thank You, God, for everything ...
 the big things and the small,
For "every good gift comes from God" ...
 the Giver of them all.
And all too often we accept
 without any thanks or praise,
The gifts You send as blessings
 each day in many ways.
And so at this Thanksgiving time,
 we offer up a prayer;
To thank You, God, for giving us
 a lot more than our share....
First, thank You for the little things
 that often come our way,
The things we take for granted
 but don't mention when we pray.
The unexpected courtesy,
 the thoughtful, kindly deed,
A hand reached out to help us ...
 in the time of sudden need.
Oh, make us more aware, dear God,
 of little daily graces,
That come to us with "sweet surprise,"
 from never-dreamed-of places.
Then, thank You for the "miracles"
 we are much too blind to see,
And give us new awareness
 of our many gifts from Thee.
And help us to remember
 that the "key" to "life" and "living,"
Is to make each prayer a "prayer of thanks,"
 and every day THANKSGIVING.



OUR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Congratulations to all the university students and college students who have successfully finished their education. Also to the highschoolers who have graduated. We wish you God's blessings on your future. Below is a list of students who are away. You are encouraged to take it from this newsletter and post it somewhere where you can remember them in prayer and maybe send them a note of encouragement now and then.

Hayley Arpin is attending the University of Winnipeg. She is in the Kinesiology/Athletic Therapy program. Her email address is: arpinhayley@gmail.com.

Jackson Arpin is in Winkler, Manitoba. He is playing hockey for the Winkler Flyers in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. His email address is: arpinjackson@gmail.com.

Skylar Arpin is at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine in Thunder Bay. She is on an 8 month placement at the hospital in Dryden, ON this year. Skylar's email address is: sparpin@lakeheadu.ca.

Emma Dykstra is at Trinity Western in Langley BC. She is in her fourth year of studies in Media and Communication.

Isaac Dykstra is at Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio. He is in his first year of studies - Major in Economics.

Emily Esselink is in her second year in a Practical Nursing Diploma Program at Cambrian College in Sudbury. She will be graduating in June 2021.

Grace Kooistra is in her 1st year at Dordt University. She is in the Pre-Physical Therapy program and enjoys her job in the gym as a trainer's assistant. She is also on the Junior Varsity Girls Soccer Team. Her address is 498 4th Ave NE DU 3031.

Mika Kooistra is in her 3rd year at Dordt University. She has a double-major in Biology and Environmental Science. She enjoys her life there very much and stays busy with orchestra and she is on the Track Team as well. Her address is 498 4th Ave NE DU 2986 Sioux Center, IA 51250

Jenna Mack is in her final year of nursing at Dordt College. Her address is: DC3522, 498 4th Avenue NE, Sioux Center IA 51250, United States.

Bethany Sinninghe is in the 4th year of her dual degree Bachelor of Physical and Health Education/Bachelor of Education at the University of Winnipeg.

Kayla Stang graduated from University of Manitoba in April 2020 with her Degree in Agriculture, with a Major in Agronomy and a Minor in Soil Sciences.

We are announcing the exciting news of Kayla's engagement to Carter McKinney. Kayla met Carter in her first year in Agriculture at University of Manitoba (her second year in University). Carter's family lives just outside of Waskada, Manitoba and he works with his parents on their grain farm. The wedding is set for July 3, 2021.

May 1, Kayla started her summer job based in Waskada, Manitoba and finished the end of August, and is actively applying for area jobs in her field. Kayla has since kept busy helping on the McKinney farm combining for harvest. Kayla's new address is PO Box 182, Waskada, MB R0M 2E0



Hannah Veldhuisen graduated with a degree in Education from Dordt University last spring. She traveled to Honduras in July to begin her teaching career at Academia Los Pinares, a Christian school near the capital city, where she is teaching grade 7 and 8 English. She is doing well and is enjoying the culture there but loves to get messages from friends back home! Her email address is hannahveldhuisen13@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Deacons:

As we cannot have our “reverse offering” for the Emo Food Bank this Thanksgiving because of COVID, we would like to encourage you to drop off groceries in the bin in the entrance at Cloverleaf for the Emo Food Bank. This is important to do anytime but especially now as we think about Thanksgiving Day approaching. They need canned fruit, canned vegetables and canned meat/fish. These are items everyone gets, so are always needed. Cold cereal, cookies and crackers are also a popular item. Now with schools back, any lunchbox item is appreciated.

FROM CRC COMMUNICATIONS

BEIRUT RESPONSE - An explosion took place in the Lebanese capital of Beirut in early August causing enormous damage, killing at least 190 people, injuring 6,500, and leaving more than 300,000 homeless. World Renew would like to extend our thanks to Canadian churches and individuals who have demonstrated Christ's love in giving to the Beirut response—over \$500,000 has been received and many gifts are having double the impact with the Canadian government's match from August 4-24. Through World Renew's partner, MERATH, 6,000 hot meals have already been provided to families affected by the blast. World Renew is also committed to a longer-term response providing food vouchers, hygiene kits, COVID-19 informational leaflets, and winterization supplies (blankets, warm clothes, stoves, and fuel) to vulnerable families. Please join us in praying for our Lebanese brothers and sisters. To stay updated on our response, visit us online at worldrenew.ca or contact us at 1-888-975-3769.

CHEER UP CHAMY - Check out our children's programs at www.kidscorner.net. In this week's episode, “Cheer Up Chamy,” it's time to rally the troops! Chamy needs everyone's help. It's up to Liz and Lucille and the gang to cheer her up after her parents' divorce. But how exactly do you do that? Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for future episodes. Download God's Got You Covered, an eBook to help kids and parents talk about divorce. kidscorner.net/activities

FAMILY FIRE - FAMILY FIRE is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

GROUNDWORK: BLOOD, SACRIFICES, AND FORGIVENESS - We don't offer sacrifices anymore. Join Groundwork in studying Leviticus 16:6-16, Leviticus 17:10-14, Hebrews 10:1-14, and Romans 3:21-26 with Groundwork to understand why the sacrificial system informs our relationship with God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



PARTNERING IN MISSION

RAISE UP GLOBAL MINISTRIES CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION

Albert and Carolyn Strydhorst
1941 Keyhill Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI; 49546
astrydhorst@tlti.org

Sept 25, 2020

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings on this beautiful fall day. A glance outside my office window captures the changing of the seasons. Such an array of colour!

I'm reminded of God's words of promise right after the pandemic waters of Genesis 7:

"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."

God's faithfulness is our hope in these times of fear and uncertainty.

The COVID-19 pandemic certainly upended the activities of TLT around the world. Almost all TLT training for church leaders takes place in small-group, in-person workshops. In the last six months of 2019, about two hundred workshops were held around the world. In the first six months of 2020, this number was less than one hundred. April through June saw almost no in-person trainings.

In some places, where internet technology was accessible, some groups hopped on to online platforms like *Zoom* or *Google Meet*. In addition to others, a group with [Hindustan Bible Institute](#) in India, another with [Centro de Entrenamiento a las Naciones](#) in Colombia, and [Resonate Global Mission](#) in Japan held trainings this way.



Interestingly, holding trainings online allows participants from various countries and regions to be together, virtually. I was able to participate this way in a training in India with [Harvest Mission](#) in August.

But it is challenging. Many places around the world don't have reliable internet access. It is difficult to "read a room." Spontaneous discussions are infrequent, and usually awkward. Too many people have dogs.

However, a great deal of training in April-June 2020 did take place with the TLT manual "**Loving Your Neighbor in the COVID-19 Pandemic.**" You may recall from my last letter in May, that this was a manual we developed quickly in April to help groups around the world to respond to the pandemic: *"In four lessons the manual highlights the value of all human life, the reality of pain and sickness, practical ways of preventing and responding to COVID-19, and a brief study of the parable of the Good Samaritan."*

Most of the training with this manual took place in home-studies, but some also in socially-distanced groups, online, WhatsApp, YouTube, and by radio. Within weeks of sending out the manual, it had been translated



multiple times; by the end of August, it was in twenty-three languages. We were able to help thirteen ministry partners from around the world with modest grants of about \$500/each for printing and distribution.



One of our partners in Peru wrote, “Over 1,500 people were impacted after church leaders studied and shared the manual. Individuals were reached through distribution of food, organizing street sanitation, love offerings of funds, delivering medications, and more.”

But we also heard from church leaders that additional challenges were cropping up during this time. Many people were very lonely and anxious. Abuse was being reported or suspected within homes where people were confined by stay-at-

home orders. One pastor from Egypt wrote, *“I am ... seeing signs of fatigue and a need for forgiveness as people feel judged and misunderstood and hurt as a result of the social distancing that some are trying to practice, and others are not feeling the same need for. ...”*

With this need in mind, we developed an additional lesson of four pages that we are *almost* ready to send to everyone who received the original manual. Here’s a snippet of the lesson to give an idea of it’s content and style.

4. God’s Loving Peace: He Calms Our Troubled Hearts

a. Read Psalm 142:1-2. *What does the person in this psalm bring to God? What can you bring to God from your own life?*

b. Suffering involves loss. We lose control, dignity, positions, loved ones, jobs, dreams, and more. *What have you lost during your time of difficulty or dark valley?*

c. People respond to suffering in many different ways. Circle words you may feel. What other emotions do you feel? You may write them in the spaces below.

Anger	Blame	Need to talk
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We are also preparing this lesson in an interactive video format that can be shared on WhatsApp and other social media platforms that are on peoples’ smartphones. Chances are that more people will complete this lesson off their phone than from a manual.

So you can see that while COVID-19 has upended our training activities around the world, we haven’t stopped. We’ve adjusted priorities, plans, and materials. We continue to serve the global church.

But it bears repeating: It is challenging. Thanks for your prayers and support as we meet these challenges by the grace of God.

With Love and Appreciation, *Albert and Carolyn Strydom*

Family Update

As of June, **Carolyn** is working 3-4 shifts a week with a home health-care agency, providing nursing care for those who are home-bound with long-term medical needs. **Jessica and Ian’s** plans to serve as teachers in a missionary-kids’ school in Central Asia were adjusted when visas to the country stopped being issued due to COVID-19. So since August they have been teaching their Central Asian classes online from Northwestern Ontario. They are hoping for visa and travel restrictions to be relaxed soon to allow their travel. **Johnny and Kristin** have moved to Ann Arbor, MI, where Johnny has started graduate studies in engineering at the University of Michigan. Kristin is currently interviewing for jobs in the area (prayers appreciated). **Andrea** is in her final year of nursing at Calvin, working part-time in a local hospital, and trying to plan a big event for the uncertain summer of 2021.



We are excited to announce that our son, Jesse, proposed to Jennifer (Jenni) Simpson on August 2nd and we are thrilled to be gaining another beautiful (inside and out) DAUGHTER-in-law in the coming months.







Thanks to our niece, Liv Hettinga, for the photos. [Liv Hettinga Photography](#)

Ministry Update: The Effects of COVID-19 on Our Work

It has been six months since we, in the Americas, started to seriously face the pandemic. So what has been the effect of this on our work in this region of the world?

First, very few people in our organization contracted the virus. However, this was unfortunately not the case for many of our closest partners in Peru where infection rates have been very high. Yet in general, we are dealing more with the effects of restrictions on travel than anything else. We are seeing domestic travel beginning to take place but very little international travel. I, Justin, do not expect to travel until well into 2021.

Most Bible translation projects are moving along just fine at this time. This is because they are mostly locally run and made up of teams of locals. But even when there were major lockdowns, most teams were able to work virtually.

What has been most affected is training and consulting. While most of this has managed to transition to virtual, a fair bit has been put on hold since some things need to be done while working face to face with one another.

Finance Update

As we continue in this ministry by giving leadership to the work of Bible translation and language development in the Americas, we trust God to supply our financial needs through churches and individuals like you. Part of our reliance on God is to make our needs known as we have them. **We are currently lacking about \$300/month** to reach 100% of the ministry budget that Wycliffe Canada has set for us. We are getting closer to our goal. Will you help us get there? **Would you prayerfully consider becoming a financial partner with us? Or consider an increase in your monthly investment if you are already a financial partner?**

How Can You Pray?

Pray for our brothers and sisters in Peru who continue to be battered by COVID-19. The situation is still quite bad. Many are still dying due to a lack of adequate healthcare. The indirect suffering of the

lockdown has led to significant hunger issues. Pray for our good friends at ATEK* and AIDIA** as they reach out and serve during this crisis.

Thanks for the part you play on our team, whether by praying, giving, or cheering us on. We are grateful for you.

Serving together,

Justin & Tammy Hettinga



[Liv Hettinga Photography](#)

**ATEK and **AIDIA are Quechua partner organizations in Peru that we helped form and partnered with during our ten years (2000-2010) in Peru. ATEK, in Cusco, ministers to the Cusco Quechua language group of southern Peru through Biblical training and discipleship. Their vision is to cultivate healthy Quechua families, contributing to strong churches, contributing to unified and organized Quechua communities. AIDIA (pronounced "idea"), in Abancay, serves the speakers of East Apurimac Quechua in Bible translation, literacy, church leadership training, audio visual ministry, youth and children's ministries, publications, and dental care.*

Serving together,


Justin & Tammy Hettinga
justin_hettinga@wycliffe.ca
tammy_hettinga@wycliffe.ca
Hettinga.ca



Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada
4316 - 10 St NE, Calgary AB T2E 6K3
[800-463-1143](tel:800-463-1143) / [403-250-5411](tel:403-250-5411)
wycliffe.ca

If you would like to make a **one-time donation** or **recurring monthly donations**, visit Hettinga.ca, type in the amount and click "Give Now." For **pre-authorized giving from your bank account**, simply fill out and submit this "[Pre-authorized Monthly Debit Agreement](#)" form. **To donate by credit card over the phone**, please call 1-800-463-1143 (9am-4pm Mountain time) and ask for the Receipts Department. **To donate by mail**, please make cheque(s) payable to Wycliffe Canada and mail to the Wycliffe address above. (Please include a separate note that states "for the work of Justin & Tammy Hettinga.") If you have any issues with this, please do not hesitate to ask for our assistance.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Ed Heerema Shayna Kelly Eleanor Wiersema *Gerald & Colleen Wieringa (38th)	3 Jack Esselink Gerrit Esselink
4 Pasquel Shortreed 10:00 WORSHIP	5 *Bram & MaryGrace Van der Kroef (13th)	6 *David & Kristine Kaemingh (30th)	7 Atlas McInerney Kim Veldhuisen	8 Colin Van Beek	9 Avery Veldhuisen	10 Ann Fluit *Gary & Betty Esselink (33rd)
11 10:00 WORSHIP	12 *Dean & Christine Bethune (29th) 	13	14 Justus Crans Darryl Kelly MaryGrace Van der Kroef	15 Gertie Kamerman	16 Sidney Smid	17 Noah Veldhuisen Dorothy Wiersema
18 10:00 WORSHIP	19	20 Ember Van der Kroef	21	22	23	24 Benjamin Esselink
25 10:00 WORSHIP	26 Dean Bethune	27 *Rudy & Marie Sinninghe (43rd)	28 Guy Arpin	29 Nico Kooistra	30 Elaine Mack Davis Wielinga	31