

December 2020

Dear Friends & Supporters,

As I write this letter to you, I have soft Christmas music playing in the background & gentle, fluffy snowflakes coming down outside. I am reminded that God is STILL in control; yes, it has been a very difficult 2020 but God is STILL on the throne! He loves every one of us and is preparing a place for those of us who love Him, a place where there is no suffering, no sadness or striving or pain. This Christmas we are all forced to do less, buy less, travel less. May we instead find ourselves appreciating life, family and Christ more!

Our 2020 started with our mission trip to Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. After a short 5 day stop over in Melbourne, Australia we continued on to Vanuatu. One of the first things we did was arrange a shipment of Bislama Bibles from Vanuatu to Melbourne to meet the request of missionaries Walter & Rosemary ministering to the seasonal Ni Vanuatu workers there. At the time we didn't know just how extra precious these Bibles would be due to the prolonged stay of these workers because of the Covid restrictions and their delayed return to Vanuatu.

The second week of January our 3 person team met up with another Bible Society member in Noro, New Georgia in the Solomon Islands. Bibles & Gospel tracts had been sent on ahead of us and awaited our arrival. The local people were overjoyed to receive a Bible in their language (Roviana) for the first time ever. Many of them became part of our team distributing thousands of Gospel tracts in Roviana to spiritually hungry people in hospitals, clinics, markets, schools, remote villages, on the streets and during numerous showings of the Jesus film. Only God knows how many souls came into the Kingdom during those 2 weeks of evangelism. There is nothing more exciting and satisfying than to know that you are exactly where God wants you - and we knew - that is where He wanted us right then.

Back in Vanuatu the 'Covid' talk was gaining momentum coming out of China and though God still had some divine appointments for us, we began to consider cutting our mission trip short to ensure safe passage home. Evangelism & distributions to 7 Port Vila prisons took place which included a Bible, Gospel tracts and a notebook and pencil to each person to encourage personal and group studies. This was enthusiastically received by hundreds of men & women inmates. While in Vanuatu a team of youth was organized to distribute Gospel tracts with us around the island of Efate. These tracts were given out on buses, in villages, on the streets, in churches, at a Bible school and to people walking on the country roads. We did arrive home 9 days earlier than expected with no ill effects related to Covid other than some minor airport inconveniences. Praise the Lord for all that was done in His name.

... continued

"As we have opportunity let us do good to all people." Gal. 6:10 Box 1000, 1350 Burrard Street, Vancouver B.C., Canada V6Z 0C2 Phone 1-800-979-4743 (Canada) Websites: <u>www.biblesforthepoor.org</u> <u>www.wavesofmercyint.org</u> Email: <u>info@biblesforthepoor.org</u> Also a quick update on our involvement with e Swatini and Swazi Antivenom Foundation. This past April our charity had donations given specifically to purchase antivenom for snake bite victims there. The entire country of e Swatini was out of antivenom so our donations to them was especially timely and critical. We continue to stay in contact with the Antivenom Foundation leaders there and help out when we can.

Once again, please accept our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support of Bibles for the Poor Society and Waves of Mercy International. We believe that God has much more work for us to do yet and we wait on His timing. May you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and lean on Him during the weeks and months ahead.

"May the Lord bless & keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenace upon you and give you peace" Numbers 6:24-26

Love in Christ,

Abby & Dave Dever



Solomon Islanders receive Bibles.



Vanuatu youth help distribute Gospel tracts.