



THE CAREW CONNECTION

2019

Pre-CODIC 19 NEWS

And all was going so well...!

Carol and I left Michigan for N. Carolina on March 2nd and arrived at Siloam Missionary Homes in Snow Camp, N. Carolina late that night. The trip down was uneventful except for some light rain. We were soon settled into the familiar surroundings due to our previous stays there. Carol was especially thankful for warmer temperatures!

On Sunday, March 8th we visited a supporting church—Hico Baptist Church in Graham, N. Carolina and had a great time seeing and fellowshiping with folks we have been blessed to know for quite some time. They are always a blessing to us, and this time was no diversion from that. They knew we had a lengthy drive ahead of us to go to an evening service at another church, so provided and shared a meal with us after the morning services.

The evening service was at Calvary Baptist of North Lenoir County in Kinston, NC. We knew their pastor, Pastor Jay O'Dell, from his time as Associate Pastor at Hico Baptist. Again, there was no shortage of blessings. The greatest blessings of all though, was that two young people accepted Christ as their savior after the service! Please pray for these two new Christians as they grow in their knowledge of the Lord. After the service we went out for a bite to eat with the Pastor, his wife and daughter and another member of the church for some additional fellowship time.

Wednesday the 11th we visited Kimesville Road Baptist Church in Burlington, NC. At this point we were just beginning to hear more news about the virus. The meeting, after a short spell of technical difficulties, went very well. At the end of our update presentation, the church voted to increase their monthly financial support *and* to give a significant one-time monetary gift. Our hearts were very touched by the reception, interest, and feedback we received!

Then things started changing...

We were about to leave for Danville, Virginia and my phone rang. It was one of the pastors from the church we were supposed to visit that evening, Sunday, March 15th. He said he was sorry for the late notice and apologetically told us they had cancelled their service. A few days later, a representative for a scheduled church in Waxhaw, NC called to say they had cancelled their planned mission's dinner for March 19th. Then, after a conversation with the pastor of another church in Virginia it was decided to re-schedule for a date in June. Again, a conversation with the pastor of a N. Carolina church that was scheduled and it was thought best to send our video presentation for them to show their attending congregation rather than making a personal appearance.

With our meetings cancelled and the growing concern over possible "stay-at-home" orders, we packed up and drove back to Michigan to be at our 'home base' in case more stringent guidelines were put in place—and we're glad we did! Now we are, like many of you, trying to keep ourselves occupied while staying at home, waiting to see what the future holds. The days seem longer, but it gives us more time in the Word! Going forward, our biggest concerns are for the health and welfare of our friends and family, but also for our ministry timeline. We are not sure what effect all this will have on our return to Chad. The new owners of the house we rent in Chad have expressed a desire to sell it at the end of the year which would likely force us to move all of our possessions and equipment—not a small undertaking—especially if we are not physically able to be there.

So please pray for that need and for these: 1. Increase in support finances, 2. That we can be a blessing to others during this difficult time, 3. That we can finish our BMM medical clearance needs that would allow us to return to Chad (since our scheduled medical appointments and procedures have been cancelled/postponed), 4. And pray for the health and safety of our co-worker, friends, pastors, and the refugees in Chad. Chad and many of the other countries in Africa have closed their borders and airports due to the virus. Keep them safe, Lord!

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