



🇨🇦 Toronto, ON

Rev. Tony & Arley-Anne Zekveld

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ. Some have been asking us how we have been faring through the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as a small congregation with a number of newer believers.

Some still have a fear of returning. One couple, who are members, have little contact with us for the last four months. We ask that you pray for them.

In the meantime, one newly married couple, from Philippino background, is beginning to attend worship. While stranded in the Philippines, we began a Bible study with her via the phone. She has now returned to join her husband and both are attending Bible study. We are currently working through the book of Exodus (Genesis and Exodus are a good place to begin with new believers.). There are signs of faith, so please pray that the Lord may open their hearts. He is a brother to the wife of a couple who were baptized in September 2019.



We are so grateful for the support of another baptized couple, Jonathan and Christine, during this time. They came to the rescue in helping to set up our livestreaming so that worship could continue in homes while church buildings were closed. The time couldn't be better for them becoming members!

We have now been worshipping in-person since the second Sunday of June. On our last Sunday in June, we ordained our first deacon! We are grateful for the Lord's provision. We look forward to Chris VanDyken, principal of Hope Academy, our elementary mission school, serving among us as deacon.

Life is becoming more normal again as we are able to make more visits. Recently, we visited again with a Muslim from Iran. He is brother-in-law to Roshanak, our newer member. This man is owner of a large restaurant. For two hours he was trying to come to grips with a 'new teaching' about how Christ takes the responsibility for sinners, taking upon Himself our sin and how He gives His power to live the new life - that is, to all who believe on Him. He wants to talk again. Pray for him, his wife, and two adult children. Pray also for Roshanak as this time is a difficult time for her.

Please pray that the Lord may continue to bless the preaching of His Word. In a mixed cultural setting, it is a blessing but also a challenge. Thank you for your prayers and continued support. May the nations among us continue to be blessed through His Word!

In His service,
Rev. Tony Zekveld

San Jose, Costa Rica

Rev. Bill & Aletha Green

The Costa Rica ministry has suffered a tremendous impact this year, just as many mission endeavors around the world have.

In our particular case, the government mandated shut-downs of the entire country have hurt our community much more than the virus. A few people have had the virus and recovered, but many of our school parents have either lost jobs, been suspended indefinitely, or have reduced salaries. Church services have been cancelled since March 2, and just recently permitted on a limited basis. The unemployment rate in Costa Rica could be as high as 30% - a figure never before experienced in Costa Rica. Because of the immediate drop in tuition payments, our teachers had to be reduced to 50% salaries, and only recently are receiving 75% of their salary, which we hope to be able to maintain until the end of our school year (the Costa Rican school year runs from February through November).

In spite of the economic crisis, God has brought our entire church and school community together in a wonderful way. All crises and suffering bring out what is truly in our hearts, and we have seen wonderful fruit of true faith and charity at work in all of our ministries. The print shop folks have supported one another and continued their work with great efficiency, since no one was bothering them inside their print shop! Several new books have been published in the midst of the crisis. The church congregation



and leaders have organized themselves so as to attend every need that has come up. And the school administration and teachers have re-organized to give classes on-line and attempt to assist all the students. Especially with the school situation, things have not been easy. But the commitment and solidarity of all our teachers with their students is a great testimony to their Christian character. Praise the Lord with us for all these marvelous indications of true faith and obedience, and please pray for the ongoing uncertainty and struggles.

At this point it is becoming clear that one of our biggest struggles will be financial. As more and more parents lose their jobs definitively, the Costa Rican Christian school is finding itself unable to pay the salaries of the staff. Our regular monthly payroll and expenses is approximately \$50,000. At present we are receiving only \$30,000 per month and falling. The small reserve we had saved is rapidly being used up. We would like to urge all who read this to make this a matter of prayer, and to consider making a generous donation for "Costa Rica school fund".

In the midst of the present circumstances, our Costa Rica team gives thanks to the Lord for we know that Christ is on the throne and has control of his people. We will continue to give all glory and honor to the King!



Empty classrooms



The brethren from a small service the beginning of August

Motivation for Evangelism

By Pastor Paul Murphy, church planter in NYC

We have been discussing the need for personal evangelism in the local church. What we need to see in our churches is more effort expended in our communities to win people to Christ as Lord and Savior. In previous articles I have discussed what needs to change in our churches. In this article I would like to start addressing **what needs to change in YOU.**

There must be a personal element to evangelism. This begins with each of us programming our hearts. **Please**, do not focus on programming your church. Instead focus on programming your heart. If your heart is not inclined towards people and desirous of their salvation then all the programs in the church will not help. **But**, if your heart is in the right place then you will not need to rely on programs because it is something that will flow from who you are.

“Since then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men... for Christ’s love compels us...” (2 Corinthians 5:11, 14) We need to be conduits of the love of Christ to others.

Allow me to begin by speaking of motivation. What is it that should motivate you to evangelize?

1. FEAR OF MAN

Well, in my experience, what hinders most people is a negative motivation, i.e., the fear of man. We fear man more than we fear God. The fear of man can either be a fear of what others think of us or will do to us, or a craving for approval and a fear of rejection. We do not evangelize and share our faith because we don’t want people to think we are religious fanatics, or rabid fundamentalists or Bible thumpers.

However, we need to replace the fear of man with the fear of God. What does God think should be the dominating sentiment of our hearts? For an in depth discussion of this I would recommend Ed Welch’s book, *When People are Big and God is Small*. It is an excellent analysis and remedy for the fear of man.

2. THE LOVE OF CHRIST

It should be the confession of every believer that *“Christ loved me and gave Himself for me...”* (Galatians 2:20) It is that personal apprehension and appropriation of His marvelous, gracious love that thrills our hearts. We love to sing *“And can it be...that thou my God should die for me?”* Yet it is just that experience of His love for you that should move you to tell it to others.

3. THE GLORY OF GOD

This is the great end of evangelism; its goal. The conversion of people is the penultimate goal. God’s glory is the goal because God will be glorified in either of two ways – the salvation of the elect or the condemnation of the reprobate. In being faithful to our calling and office, (remember HC 32, every believer has a prophetic responsibility) God will be glorified. This is the chief end of man so we **must** do this. This was the motivation behind the golden age of missions. It was what sent Whitefield across the Atlantic seventeen times. It was what spurred on Spurgeon and others to be such great evangelists. If we are those who truly seek to glorify God above all, then we must be engaged in the evangelistic enterprise.

4. OBEDIENCE

The great commission has been entrusted to the church. We serve Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Obedience to His commands is not an option, but an obligation. Yet most Christians treat evangelism as an optional activity. Many are guilty of the sin of omission in this regard. Yes, let’s call it what it is, sin. That alone is hopeful because our Jesus alone can forgive sin and He can grant repentance. Let us express our gratitude to Him by lovingly obeying Him by telling others the good news about Him.

5. COMPASSION FOR OTHERS

We should have the heart of God for others. We should be moved with compassion for those who, unless they repent and believe, will spend an eternity in the torments of Hell. Can you really look someone in the eye, see the bankruptcy of their soul, know they are headed for the horrors of Hell, and NOT tell them to flee from the wrath to come? How can you NOT tell them where they can find refuge and relief in the shadow of the cross and the empty tomb?

Do you really believe in Hell? Do you really believe that God sends unrepentant sinners to Hell? For you see, it is the doctrine of Hell that provides the great motive for all I have said thus far. Hell awakens us to the fear of God (Matthew 10:28). Hell is what you and I have been saved from by the love of Christ (John 3:16). Salvation from Hell makes us debtors to His grace and so we live for His glory and obey Him. Hell’s reality makes us moved by compassion for others so that they will not go to that place of eternal torment and woe. Meditate on the doctrine of Hell and let it change your heart. Then program your heart for outreach.