

Friends,

31 January 2019

The salutation I am using for our correspondence was not chosen flippantly nor facetiously. Pastors who gave us our very first meetings have relationships that we've enjoyed for as much as 40 years in some cases. Several of you are mentors in the faith; others are peers I've been honored to call friends for 20+ years. Then there's a third category: men to whom I've recently been introduced, but due to our bond in the Lord we're forging a special kinship that makes up for lost time.

**So, what is deputation like?** I'm probably a bit green to answer that question, but our experiences so far have been very positive. We've had gracious hosts, delicious meals, and offerings that have met our needs and often gone beyond that. In business terms, our "soft opening" took place in October with a light schedule of meetings through the end of 2018. We had six meetings in those months, and five of those churches took us on for support! Amen! That's a great percentage.

January better represents the volume of meetings we'd need to get to the field in our goal of 18 months. We were in five churches in that span, and are awaiting decisions from these for support. One of these churches will have us back for a fall missions weekend when new support will be determined.

**Tell me something good.** I'd love to! James, a young man I brought to church and led to the Lord at our previous church, in the past two months was baptized and led one of his friends to the Lord! He's being a missionary in *his* Jerusalem and I could see him doing great things for the Lord despite a not-so-privileged background.

**What's next?** In February, March and April, we'll be in thirteen churches (including six missions conferences) in eastern Georgia, North and South Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and three close enough to home to sleep in our own beds. We could still work in a few more midweek services that are within an hour of Tidewater Virginia.

**We could use your help.** We've heard over and over from pastors that the biggest boon to convince them to bring in a missionary they've never met is a referral from another pastor that they trust. Would you be willing to do one or two of these things? 1) Jot a short testimonial that we could put on a recommendations page on our website. 2) Make a contact with a pastor that hasn't responded yet to our calls, emails or letters. (I can give you a list.) 3) Recommend us to other pastors in your area or sphere of influence, and then let us know so that we can follow up with them. We're seeing how that already-laid groundwork is paying off!

**What can you pray for?**

- That churches will continue to support us at the rate we've experienced so far
- Traveling mercies, as March will be our busiest month to date
- Continued growth for Faith Baptist Church in Lakenheath, England
- That God would provide meetings after the busy "missions conference season"
- Our son Christian, for college decisions and finances to match



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