

1 Friday ~ Gerry and Nancy Kraft, British Columbia, Outreach Canada. Nancy and I want to wish you a truly blessed Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our Savior. It is a wonderful time of the year to share the Good News that Jesus saves! He will bring meaning to your mundane world and give you a reason to get up every day. Thank you for your friendship and support, it means we can carry on with the calling God has put in our hearts.

2 Saturday ~ CEF NorCal, Silicon Valley. As we near the end of 2020, we want to look back and give God praise for all He has done in CEF NorCal, Silicon Valley! Please feel free to share the testimonies with your family & friends and let us deepen our appreciation of our Mighty King!

3 Sunday ~ Ireni Mota, Sao Paulo Brazil, Restoration Ministries. This Christmas will be different from past years. The world has changed. But the message of Christmas doesn't change and continues to be powerful. As we are facing different levels of hardship and challenges, we are still firm in God's promises. His mercies and grace are reaching us in the midst of the turmoil we are experiencing. Christmas season is a reminder of who God is, and His love for us. It's a time for us to continue to seek His presence and give praise to Jesus.

4 Monday ~ Ireni Mota, Sao Paulo Brazil, Restoration Ministries. Our family is thankful for the protection & for the provision with which God has blessed us, & you are part of what God is doing for His glory. I (Ireni) am doing well. My health is improving more than at any other time. I praise God for the opportunity to serve Him, even though we faced a very difficult year. It was a blessing for me to see all the fruit & spiritual growth of the people I am involved with.

5 Tuesday ~ Partners International, West Africa. Last month in West Africa, a group of women leaders led 407 people to Jesus! One of them was a professional witch. Pray that these new believers would faithfully follow Jesus and reach thousands more with the Gospel.

6 Wednesday ~ Joe and Calla Jean Wright, WorldVenture. The real Christmas brings us to a Bible verse not usually associated with Christmas, Revelation 5:12: *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"* Let's mirror and radiate Christ as we celebrate the real CHRISTmas. We wish you God's richest blessings now and in 2021

7 Thursday ~ Ken Taylor, Japan, WorldVenture. Travel restrictions in Japan are opening up slowly. It has been a long time, but I plan to go to California this December to spend the holidays with the Anika & Alex, Luke, and Victoria. In January, I hope to visit with partners. Praising and thanking the Lord for your continued prayers and support.

8 Friday ~ Marty and Denise Shaw, Colorado, WorldVenture. Along with most of you, we look back on 2020 with mixed emotions. This has been a year like no other. It began with a cancer diagnosis for Denise and ended with a month to rejoice in all God did over the year in our family.

9 Saturday ~ Marty and Denise Shaw, Colorado, WorldVenture. The word of the year is 'unprecedented.' God always thrives in the unprecedented. Jesus's birth was unprecedented. In the midst of a night, God was there. In the midst of pain and fear, God was there. Amid the uncertainty, God was there. And not only was God there, but He was also at work.

10 Sunday ~ Marty and Denise Shaw, Colorado, WorldVenture. Just about a year ago, Denise received her cancer diagnosis with surgery right after Christmas. The next several months, she had chemo and radiation, plus numerous blood work and periodic scans. The arrival of COVID made life both more complicated as well as uncomplicated, as we had to work from home and were unable to go out a lot.

11 Monday ~ Marty and Denise Shaw, Colorado, WorldVenture. The next event in our unprecedented year occurred when Marty had a mild stroke in March. After follow-up tests, it was determined that he had a Papillary fibroelastoma (PFE) on his aortic valve from which a tiny piece had broken and traveled to his brain. Surgery to remove the growth happened mid-May. Chemo also ended mid-May. As Marty continued to recover from surgery, Denise began radiation five days a week for five weeks.

12 Tuesday ~ Marty and Denise Shaw, Colorado, WorldVenture. So, while COVID has thrown a wrench into what we normally do, it hasn't stopped what God is doing around the world, and what we are doing on our part to reach the world. COVID has allowed us to work in-depth on foundational issues that will allow us to springboard into 2021. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement over this unprecedented year!

13 Wednesday ~ Beth Bryson, Dallas, TX, Wycliffe Bible Translators. Of six churches that I relate to, three are in a pastoral transition. Pray for the church throughout America, that it would be strengthened and find effective ways to engage during these challenging times.

14 Thursday ~ Beth Bryson, Dallas, TX, Wycliffe Bible Translators. My local church here is doing a 7-week study on prayer, and I am leading a group with Mom's three caregivers. It has been a blessing to hear their thoughts and explore some new ideas together. Pray for God to change all four of us as a result of this study.

15 Friday ~ Beth Bryson, Dallas, TX, Wycliffe Bible Translators. Mom & I did move to a new house. There are still some "settling in" tasks that remain, but for the most part the move was smooth. The new house is a huge blessing to both of us. Pray that God would use it for His Kingdom.

16 Saturday Brenda Allen, Guinea West Africa, WorldVenture. Baby Boy Yombouno...another "grandchild!" I am so blessed that a healthy little one was born last month to Andre & Sita, campus ministry workers in Kankan, Guinea! He went without a name for a few weeks until his parents could have him dedicated at church & announce his name, as is the custom in Christian church in Guinea. Hearing of his birth, I headed to baby section at Target the night he was born to go shopping, as any grandma might do!

17 Sunday ~ Larry Stucky, Clovis, CA, WorldVenture. The "online" theme has become a constant feature of life and ministry. When lockdown orders hit us in early March, I was the head coordinator of our Perspectives course of about 80 students, expecting my role to take no more than 10 hours per week.

18 Monday ~ Larry Stucky, Clovis, CA, WorldVenture. We headed online in a huge learning curve on how to lead a class on zoom – lots of trial, lots of error too. For the next couple of months Perspectives occupied most of my ministry time. I'm thankful to WorldVenture and to you for allowing this crucial pivot. We learned a lot. Today, with that under our belts, it would be a lot easier to manage.

19 Tuesday ~ Craig Kraft, Delta BC, Outreach Canada. Craig continues to lead the Outreach Canada team and serve on the guidance team for the OC Global Alliance. Virtual meetings take place early in the morning but keep us connected with our leaders around the world. This year we have been praying with our global leaders who have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. We've added several new team members at OC and our ministry networks are continuing to grow.

20 Wednesday ~ Craig Kraft, Delta BC, Outreach Canada. We have just partnered with Groundwire to begin a nation-wide evangelistic campaign in Canada. We are hoping & praying for 10,000 Canadians to make new decisions to follow Jesus in the first half of 2021. I know this sounds like a fairytale, but early testing this past summer saw over 2,200 Canadian decisions to follow Jesus.

21 Thursday ~ Craig Kraft, Delta BC, Outreach Canada. The campaign will run on social media where we will be placing video commercials on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. We hope that this is the tip of a big iceberg. Check it out at www.jesuscares.com or donate to the campaign at outreach.ca/Ministries/Jesus-Cares (US donations through www.JesusCares.com/donate (select Jesus Cares Canada). Thank you for partnering with Outreach Canada through your encouragement, giving, and prayers.

22 Friday ~ Dave and Beth Penney, IDEAS. So many of you have been praying with us about Beth's brain surgery. We knew we had to do a Special Update to inform you before waiting until the end of the month. Praise the Lord, the operation went very well indeed. The doctor said that the tumor came out easily because it was not attached into the brain. We rejoice that the tumor is now out, & Beth is recovering. Thank you so much for praying & caring for us in so many different ways. We have truly known considerable support, grace & encouragement.

23 Saturday ~ Dave and Beth Penney, IDEAS. Our oldest daughter Shandra was able to meet us as we arrived home from the hospital. She had all sorts of prepared frozen food so we don't have to fix meals for a week or more. This is thanks primarily to her fellowship who has also been praying for, thinking of, and encouraging us leading up to and during the operation. Of course, many from around the world, both associates working out there as well as you who lift us up from here in the United States have been there for us. We are so grateful for all this love.

24 Sunday ~ Joel and Betsy Eyestone, Philippines, WorldVenture.

Advent 2020: A Season of Waiting

There was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. (Lk 2:25 NLT)

Don't you just love Simeon? He had no doubt that what the Spirit had revealed would come to pass. So, during a dark period in Israel's history, he waited patiently, expectantly, eagerly! And he was not disappointed.

25 Monday ~ Joel and Betsy Eyestone, Philippines, WorldVenture.

Like us, you have undoubtedly found yourself waiting a lot this year. But what have we been waiting for? The pandemic to be over so we can get on with life? The political and social turmoil to pass so we can establish a new normal? Or have we been watching with anticipation how God is going to accomplish His Kingdom purposes through these unusual circumstances? Has it piqued your interest in the promise of Christ's return?

26 Tuesday ~ Joel and Betsy Eyestone, Philippines, WorldVenture.

While God has given no assurances that we will live until Christ's Second Advent, let's choose to be like Simeon, waiting eagerly and expectantly, because we know that God keeps His Word. What He has said will come to pass!

27 Wednesday ~ Ken Taylor, Japan, World Venture

When the pandemic hit last March, all gatherings had to immediately stop. How can you continue singing in a choir when you cannot gather together? And so I really thought that Covid was also going to shut down this unbelievable ministry of 20 years that is reaching thousands of Japanese through Black gospel music.

28 Thursday ~ Ken Taylor, Japan, World Venture

The good news is that most of the choirs did not want to stop and keep going on. I was wrong to assume the worst when in fact most members wanted to keep on singing gospel where they could find hope in Jesus Christ. Last Spring we went full-on virtual lessons. Since the Fall there are some choirs meeting together again. Some choirs continue to have lessons online.

29 Friday ~ Matt and Susi Lundquist, Central Washington University, Missions Door

I have mentioned a young lady who came to Christ in our ministry after attending the Cave for several months (as an atheist), and asking LOTS of questions. Well, Sonja, along with my Intern James, had been coming to "church" in our living room during quarantine. And once meetings resumed (with appropriate social distancing), she asked if I would baptize her at an upcoming service! Susi and I were very pleased that she took initiative. She wanted to obey Christ and make a public declaration of her faith. As she told me, "I think this is my next step!" She & James invited family & friends, among them two Mormon missionaries, and in all they had over ten people there to witness the event.

30 Saturday ~ Matt and Susi Lundquist, Central Washington University, Missions Door

After I told a bit of Sonja's story, I talked about how Romans 6 explains our response to Grace: rather than continue to sin, we are dead to it, and freed from its slavery, so we can live for righteousness, not under law, but under grace! It was a great celebration, with many fathers baptizing their children. We were blessed to rejoice with the many families gathered to commit themselves to following the Lord fully.

31 Sunday ~ Pioneers-USA

A student from East Asia is studying in the US her faith in Jesus this fall. "He loves me so much and I decided to love Him back," she explained at her baptism. PTL!