

It seemed that in one week everything changed. size and momentum, this pandemic got here And once we heard stories of people who were a freefall and began to read names and see faces became reality. It's in these times that what we say, but by how we respond by faith in trying times.



Like a snowball rolling downhill gaining both faster and more life-altering than expected. losing jobs, watched the financial markets hit of people being effected, concern and fear believe of God is revealed, not by what we

*Behold, the hour is coming . . . when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup>I have said these things to you, that **in me you may have peace.** In the world you will have tribulation. **But take heart; I have overcome the world.**"*

Jesus makes it clear. In Him, there is peace. In the world there is tribulation. What you focus on and set your heart on determines if there is peace in your spirit or if your spirit is troubled. Take heart, if you are a follower of Christ, He lives in you and He has overcome whatever fear, concern or trial that you are facing.

### HOW IS THE CORONAVIRUS AFFECTING US?

Significantly! The high schools have closed and sporting events have ceased. Lorna is no longer allowed to freely spend time influencing these student athletes on campus. The O.A.T. Academy's efforts to provide tutoring and mentoring has slowed down. However, that doesn't keep Lorna from initiating with select students. Our staff meetings are no longer in person but via the internet through video conference calls.

Troubled times are ripe to engage conversation to share why we are at peace and have hope. There are many opportunities to encourage and point people to Christ. We are hoping to use the extra time we have to sharpen our walk with the Lord as we read and study His Word as well as meet with people in individual settings.

### DIRKE'S INCREASED MINISTRY LOAD

Dirke has been asked to help give leadership to how we care for and communicate with our 8,000 plus U.S. Missionary staff during this crisis. This has required many meetings and conference calls as care networks are put in place and appropriate staff are trained to help any missionary that may be affected with the virus.

Dirke continues to teach one evening a week, now online, a live class with Ministry Degree students from Palm Beach Atlantic Christian University. The class titled, "Christian Values and Biblical Faith" emphasizes the need to match what we say we believe with how we actually live. It challenges the student to evaluate if their life reflects the values of a follower of Christ in every sphere of life.

Dirke has not only increased his workload, but he's increased his family load (pic above of grandkids) while having a weekend with Matt & Alyssa who live in the Twin Cities.



The first of March, Dirke spent a day coaching and helping the Financial Directors of all of our Cru ministries in the U.S become more effective as a spiritually healthy & high performing team.

**PLEASE PRAY**

- Pray the virus is contained and as few people as possible are affected.
- Pray our missionaries use their new temporary normal time well to do ministry.
- Pray even more people are reached for Christ through our digital strategies. We have more than 400,000 people daily visit our digital platforms from around the world.
- Pray God blesses all of us to think differently and learn new ways to live for Christ!
- Pray God gives Dirke sustained strength and wisdom for his leadership role and God's Spirit would infuse his teaching to glorify God.