

News from Allen and Deedee

14 March 2020

A quick update from
Allen:



Dear friends,

Thank you for praying for my Dad! I was blessed to be able to be with him at the hospital after his successful open-heart surgery, and then to help him for about a week and a half afterwards, as he convalesced at home. Dad has been making significant improvements every day. He is now gradually returning to being able to do necessary everyday tasks like cooking, cleaning, driving, and so forth, but at first he couldn't do anything like that. I knew that helping out would keep me busy, though I was a little surprised to find out just how busy! Dad has other help now, so I was able to return home to France earlier this past week (before travel restrictions started).

I expect that like us, you are praying about the impact the novel coronavirus is having around the world. As you pray about this, please include prayers for our ministry opportunities during this time. An outreach team who was supposed to come this month has already had to cancel; and so has another team, who had been planning to work in Spain during Holy Week. Recruiting for outreach participation later in the year had been going well— and I am still getting a few inquiries— but now people have to wait and see before they can commit to anything. We, as a team, need to continue planning for summer outreach, but we also need to figure out what our ministry may look like if things don't go back to normal by summertime. Just now I heard that all flights and ferries have been cancelled between several different North African countries and Europe, until further notice.

Many other things are being cancelled or postponed because of this health crisis. This week, after leaving my Dad's house, I was supposed to go to our North Africa Middle East Area National Leadership Team conference. This normally would be our chance, every few years, to have all our national leadership together for training, prayer, and planning. We will now have to wait for some future opportunity, for the Lord to provide us with time together for strategic planning and for discussing subjects of vital importance to our ministry. This conference cancellation was a blessing, however, because if we had met together as originally planned, many leaders would not have been able to return home.

Please pray especially for Deedee, who, as our crisis manager for the Port Cities team, has been very busy monitoring the situation, talking to others in the organization, and prompting the rest of us to think through contingency plans.

Pray that, ultimately, these events would not hinder North Africans from receiving God's Word. *There were still some people at the port Friday morning, even though ferries to Morocco had been cancelled. A young lady heading to Ceuta (a Spanish city in North Africa) was very glad to get a packet. Another woman was especially happy to get Spanish/Arabic materials (instead of French/Arabic ones), enthusiastically repeating "the Gospel!"*

Thanks again for all your prayers and support!

Serving with you,

Allen and Deedee