

# Jami's Journal

September 2020

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*"Do you not say there are yet four months then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest."* (John 4:35)

*Lift up your eyes and see* – these are the words of Jesus to his disciples, after Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, and they are words for us today. While reading about the importance of "vision" in preparation for my missionary strategies class, I was reminded of this truth, that before Jesus sent out the disciples with the great commission, first they had to lift up their eyes and see the fields. They needed to be captivated by the vision before they could be effective in fulfilling this commission. Today as I was walking in my neighborhood, I prayed that God would help me to see where He was working, to give me eyes to see the fields ready for harvest, that His supernatural love would overflow through me to my neighbors, that God would open doors to share the gospel to share His love with them, and that many would embrace His love and place their faith in Christ alone for salvation.

EMMANUEL BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – I continue to teach online classes from home. I finished Theology of the Holy Spirit in our bachelors' degree program, and recently began teaching two classes on Saturdays -- Personal Evangelism and Missionary Strategies. In July we had our graduation ceremony. Twelve students graduated this year, and I was honored to be asked to participate in the virtual ceremony by introducing some of the graduates. Our seminary has bi-weekly online prayer meetings, and I am grateful to participate and to have been invited to lead some meetings. I was asked to help develop a mentoring program for the seminary. I wrote up a basic outline and look forward to receiving input from others on how we can best help our students grow and be successful in ministry.

GETSEMANI CHURCH -- Our church continues to have online church services and other devotional and prayer transmissions during the week. Our Wednesday women's bible study group has not met in person since the covid outbreak, but we have been in contact via whatsapp with encouraging messages, Scripture, and sharing prayer requests and answers to prayer. The work God began in these women He will continue to bring to completion. I look forward to when we can be together again in person.

FACTOR FE CHURCH—We continue to have weekly online Sunday services and prayer meetings. A few weeks ago, we also began an online weekly study on the book CHAZOWN by Craig Groeschel. It invites us to reflect on our past experiences, core values, and spiritual gifts to discover our life purpose. It has been good to interact and encourage one another in this process of spiritual growth.

NEIGHBORS – I have connected and developed friendships with neighbors as I walk in our community. One mom walks every day with her kids, and several walk their dogs. One neighbor's daughter was to start online university classes in July. I wrote down the date she was to start. When I saw that neighbor and asked how things were going, she was surprised that I remembered! She was glad that I asked and was excited to share that things were going well in her daughter's beginning of her university life. I often run into a couple walking with their dog and cat. He is a pilot, and she has a relative with covid. Once while walking I noticed a birthday party going on outside a house for a 2-yr old girl. The mom approached me, called me by name and offered me birthday cake! I was amazed she remembered my name! Once I ran into a young woman who I had met before from the state of Guanajuato. We had talked before about our memories of Guanajuato, but this day she was moving out! She had only lived

here for a year, and I did not see her very often. That day I noticed she had a tattoo on her arm ("always friends") and asked what it was about. She said she had a best friend die in an accident last year (age 25) so in her memory decided to get a tattoo. I said, "life is short, and we never know." I went back to my house to get snacks and a tract, hoping to talk more with her about spiritual things, but when I went back to her house, she had already left with the movers. She gave me her garbage can, so whenever I see it, I am reminded to pray for her. I am part of two different whatsapp groups with neighbors and have developed friendships with many. I pray that these relationships continue to develop, for opportunities to show Christ's love and for open doors to share the gospel.

**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTIONS --** We have had online conferences and meetings on different topics – updates on how and when we can open our churches safely, theology, some pastors (that are also doctors) shared on health issues, covid and the family. A psychologist shared on the psychological impact of covid. It has been good to see, network and encourage one another. Several pastors of our national convention of Baptist churches in Mexico have died of covid, floods have destroyed other regions of the country, and covid has left its mark on the economy. We pray for Mexico, these families and churches, that God would lead, guide and provide as we all wait on Him.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE:** 1. Praise for friendships with neighbors and prayer for open doors to share the gospel. 2. Pray that God would use me to help develop leaders for His glory as I teach my seminary classes. 3. Pray for Mexico during covid-19 – that God would use His churches in creative ways to impact the communities with the gospel, for protection from the virus, for the economical impact, for grieving families, for corruption and violence to decrease, and for God to draw many to faith in Him. I just heard of the death to covid of a 59-year old friend in Mazatlan, with whom I had shared the gospel years ago. God knows his heart. 4. Pray for good health, energy, and safety. 5. Pray for wisdom in all ministry decisions. 6. Pray for God to continue to provide resources for my ministry with the new financial system. 7. One of my *cuatas* friends in Irapuato (I used to have weekly brunch and bible study with a group of women) her husband just died of covid. I pray for that family and all my *cuatas* that God would continue to draw many to Himself by faith. 8. Once walking out of the grocery store, I talked to an older woman selling woven baskets, etc. Later, I committed that if I were ever to see her again, that I would share Christ if God so leads. A week later I saw her, shared with her, and gave her a tract. I pray that God would help her understand what it means to have a relationship with Him, that these gospel seeds planted would take root and grow, and that she would place her faith in Christ.

\* Thank you for your prayers and partnership in God's work in Mexico. I know these are difficult and uncertain times, but we know that God is faithful and will use it to accomplish His purposes. I pray also for you during this pandemic that God would encourage and strengthen you and provide for all your needs. May He use this pandemic to increase our faith and to use us as light and salt in our communities. May God help us to lift up our eyes and see the fields ready for harvest, and may He lead, guide, and use us as His instruments that many may come to meet, know and follow Christ for His glory.

May God, the Lord of the harvest, bless you as you continue to faithfully serve Him.

Grateful for you and our partnership in God's global mission, *Jami*

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*I'm grateful for Pastor Randy's interim ministry & am excited about this next chapter at Bethel with Pastor Mark Martin. Blessings to you as you continue to shine for Christ. Love,*  
*Jami*



# Bartz Signal



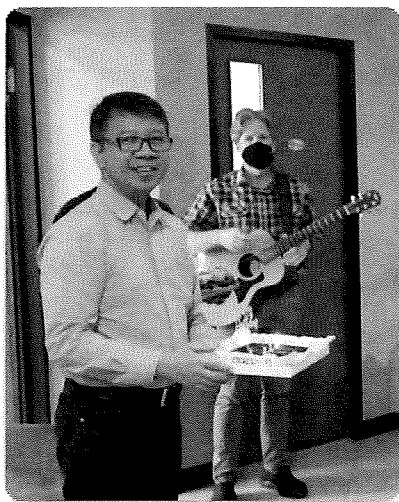
# FEBC

INTERNATIONAL

August 2020

## *Adapting*

Five months have passed since Barb and I returned to Indonesia. We were anticipating renewing relationships with our Indonesian colleagues and friends. As we reported earlier, upon arrival we were confronted with many changes brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions on gatherings, use of masks, and social distancing continue. Just a few days ago, government authorities yet again extended their mandated regulations to halt the spread of the virus.



It's hard to extinguish birthday candles while wearing a mask.

Delays have also been part of adapting upon our return. Every year we are required to renew our visa to live in Indonesia. This time around the renewal process was slowed by the closure of government offices due to the pandemic. We hoped to see the renewal completed by the time our current documents expired at the end of April. Unfortunately, the renewal process was delayed. **However**, the good news is we completed the registration process (photos and fingerprinting) in the middle of July. By the time this letter arrives, you can join us in thanking God for watching over us and allowing us to remain in Indonesia for another year.

Beyond all the adjustments with the pandemic, we have experienced changes in our approaches to ministry. In June, FEBC leadership announced the International Service Team (IST), through which we've been serving, is being disbanded. Rather than providing support from the central IST, regional assistance will be shared among the local FEBC operations from nearby countries. Those of us on the central team have reverted back to our home organizations, in our case FEBC-USA. Barb's role in leading the IST Admin Team is no longer needed. So she is stepping back from active FEBC ministry in favor of her Bible study ministries within our local church. Bob's new role is still being negotiated. We are finalizing an agreement between FEBC and Operation Mobilization (OM). OM focuses on introducing Jesus to 1/3 of the world's population still unreached. Bob will be assisting OM ministry teams as they incorporate media into their outreach strategies. We will remain FEBC missionaries under this agreement.

These transitions are being complicated by our current financial support levels. While our missionary account (called a memo record) has a positive balance, our current monthly income level does not quite meet all of our expenses. Our recent visit to the US for home assignment provided a small boost, but we also learned of recent changes that will diminish our income by another 7%.

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***Christ to the World by Media***

To stabilize our memo record as we move into this next chapter of ministry, we will need an additional \$1,000/month. Please consider how you could be part of the solution by a regular contribution to our support or by inviting others you know to become a part of our team. For more information, please contact us directly. There are also instructions below should you choose to participate financially in our ministry.




A small group fellowship time following our church Sunday celebration

Please remember the following prayer concerns in the days ahead:

- \* Thank the Lord with us that our visa renewal is nearly completed so we can continue to live in Indonesia.
- \* Pray with us as Bob begins this new ministry role with OM. Pray for wisdom as we finalize the arrangements.
- \* Ask the Lord to raise up new sources of financial support to enable us to step into our next chapter of media ministry.
- \* Pray for our creativity as we adapt and apply today's technology to relational ministry.

We greatly appreciate your partnership with us, especially during these days of adapting.

***One Step at a Time,***



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**P.S.** Financial support for our ministry can be forwarded to FEBC. Please send your gift to:

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Online donations are possible  
through the FEBC web site at:

<http://febc.org/bartz>



## ***GSM Praise and Prayer Requests***

***October 2020***

### **Senior Care Ministries**

We rejoice on how God is **slowly opening doors** for Dorphia and I to increase our ministry during these days of the COVID pandemic. At the beginning of the pandemic we were only able to send out a weekly devotional for residents (which we continue to do). Also, we made personal phone calls and I had one virtual Bible study using Zoom.

**Over the last couple of months, we have been able to do more.** Additionally, we have been able to schedule one-to-one visits and some outdoor Bible studies/church services. At this time we are having several indoor Bible studies/church services as we wear masks and maintain social distancing. Please pray for us as minister.

During this time God has **increased my ministry of personal phone calls.** This includes senior care residents, seniors living at home, residents at the Minnesota Security Hospital and other people in need of spiritual support.

This year we will not be having our annual banquet because of the pandemic. Rather, we will have a **virtual "banquet."** On Sunday evening, November 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual fundraising event that can be viewed on Facebook or by Zoom. Please pray that many will participate. We are also looking for people that would like to host a gathering (2 or 3 people or couples) to view the virtual "banquet." Please contact me at 507-327-1480 if interested.

To God be the Glory!

Jerry and Dorphia

**Broken Chains Fellowship**

One of the BCF praises is regarding the efforts to open a **reentry house**. Despite the pandemic we are making forward progress toward opening with the reentry house in Sherburn. Tune into the upcoming GSM's Virtual Banquet on Sunday, November 15th to see a testimonial and hear all the God is doing to make this dream a reality.

Please **keep BCF participants and ministers in prayer**. The increase stressors of pandemic isolation, lack of support resources, and even the political climate are making the already difficult reentry path even more burdensome. Pray for strength, wisdom, and some good old fashion Christian grit.

For Jesus' fame!

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*Dear Bethel Baptist Church Family,*

*Jerry and I had a wonderful time at our annual Infaith Refresh conference in Harvey Cedars, NJ. It is always a blessing to get together with other Christians whose desire is to serve Christ and reach others with the gospel of salvation. We were able to share our praises, our burdens, our stories and ideas of how God is working in each of our ministries. The biggest encouragement to me was that no one stopped reaching out during this time of COVID. Our ministries may look a little different, but we are all finding ways to be active in sharing Christ with others.*

*Our theme for this year's Refresh was "Fresh". Fresh conversation, Fresh encounter, Fresh lens, Fresh fragrance and Fresh communion. Our speakers talking points encouraged us to open our hearts and minds to what the Holy Spirit is revealing to us as we read and study God's word. 2 Corinthians 2:15 says, "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." After our lesson on "Fresh fragrance", each of us went forward to pick out a little vial of citrus oil. That oil was to represent the pleasing fragrance of our lives as disciples of Christ. I put mine in my purse. Now, every time I open my purse or use one of my face masks I keep in my purse, I smell that very refreshing fragrance and I am reminded that my life should be a reflection of God's love in all that I say and do. This can be a challenge for me as I do not always feel like being a sweet fragrance. I am thankful my family, friends and, especially the Lord, do not give up on me.*

*This month Jerry and I are seeing more opportunities for ministry. Some places are now allowing indoor services. Jerry has another opportunity for a zoom Bible study. I will have opportunities for one- to- one visits. We know the isolation has been hard on many so we are very thankful for the loosening of some restrictions.*

*Thank you so much for your gift of \$208.00 to Gentle Shepherd Ministries. Jerry and I are very grateful for the ministry God has enabled us to do, and very thankful for your prayers and financial support.*

*Blessings in Christ,  
Jerry and Daphnia*



# The Odland Update

Building spiritual movements everywhere  
so everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus.



Matt & Kristin Odland 202 Ellis Ave, Mankato, MN 56001

October 8, 2020

## Praise & Prayer

- Praise for Emily's interest in learning God's word!
- Pray for wisdom & strength as we weigh out ministry decisions daily with COVID-19 precautions in mind. Praise that MSU has reported decreasing COVID-19 numbers.
- Praise that our girls are back at school and things are going well! Evie just started pre-school!



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## Getaway!

"I'm not ready to go back home!" Koshangi, a South Asian freshman exclaimed as I was dropping her and Lenn (Kenya) off at their apartments on a Saturday evening. We had just gotten back from the Bridges Fall Getaway—a day full of fun outside of Mankato. Our first stop was an apple orchard, then Minnesota's Largest Candy Store, and we finished our getaway at 7-Mile Creek park where students could hike, play soccer & baseball and cook dinner over a campfire.

In a normal year, we would have a full weekend retreat but when taking COVID-19 precautions into account, we knew we needed to do things differently. Our Bridges team decided that our key values were getting students out of Mankato and building community and trust and I think our Getaway accomplished both!

To wrap up the night, as we sat around a campfire I shared a bit with the 20 students about why we started Bridges. Then, I told them that in the Bible, when a man asks Jesus what the most important commandment is, he tells the man that the first is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind but that a second is like it—to love your neighbor as yourself. I really view these students as neighbors God has put in our community to welcome and love. I pray that these words of Jesus would bring life and light in the chaos of this year!

**Another highlight has been meeting \*Emily.** She is an int'l student from Albania who transferred to MSU this year. She had indicated on a Bridges survey that she was interested in being mentored by a Christian. When I met with her the first time, I was surprised to discover that she grew up in a Muslim family but loves learning about the Bible. Emily is studying pre-medicine and I explained to her that the book of Luke in the Bible was written by Luke, who was a physician. She was very interested to hear a physician's perspective on Jesus. This week we met again and began to read through Luke together. She had many questions and insightful observations and she's eager to go to church with our family this Sunday as well!

I'm so thankful God is providing these opportunities to interact meaningfully even in the midst of a pandemic! We're so grateful for your prayers and partnership!

Blessings! Matt, Kristin, Maggie, Belle and Evie

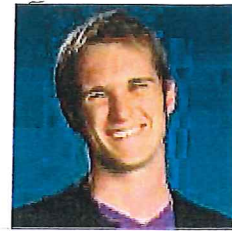


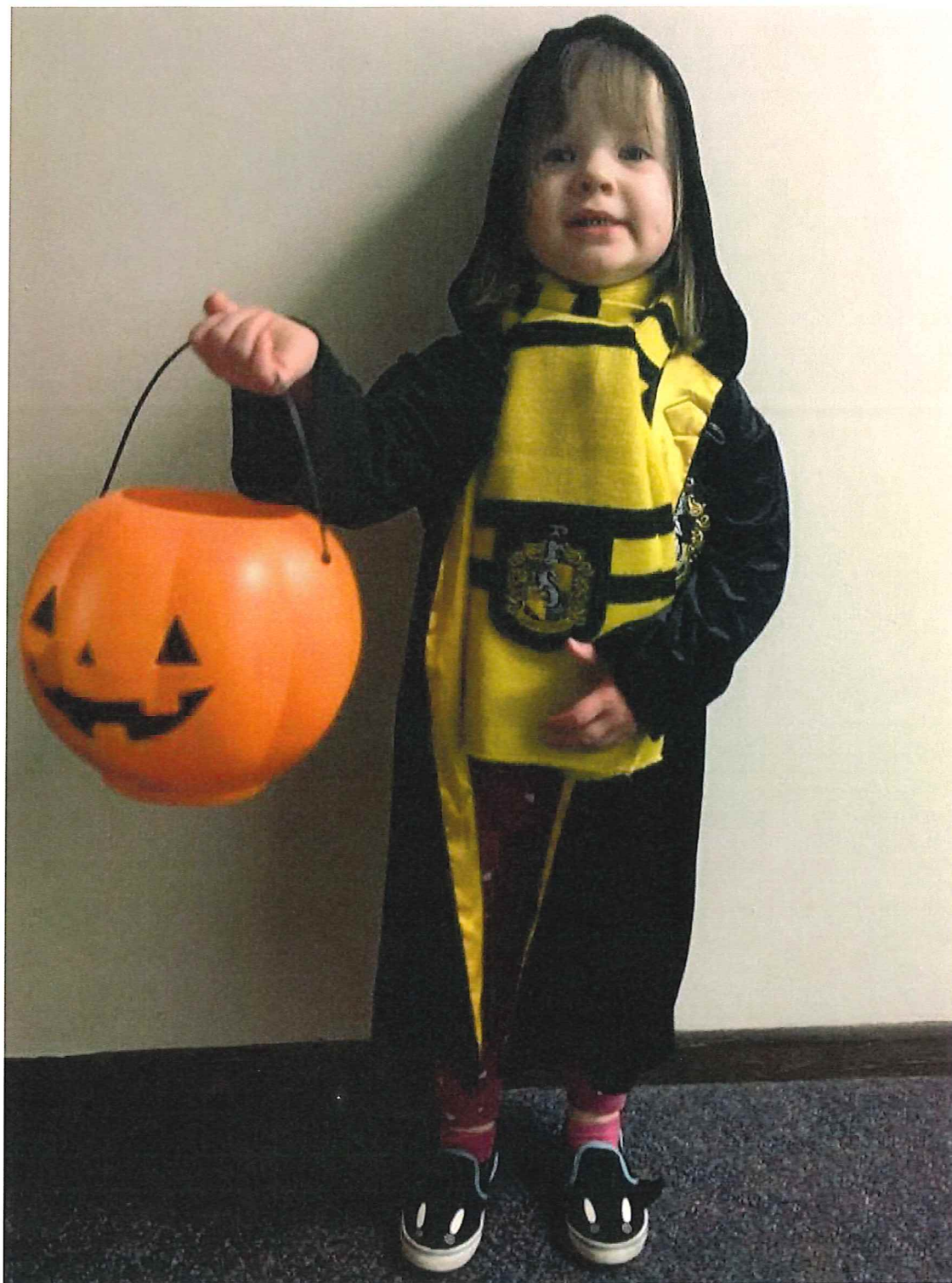
Hiking during the Getaway with Maggie, Belle and some of the girls!



# EVERY CORNER, EVERY CAMPUS.

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## The Home Front

It's been a quiet month at home since my last update, but here are a couple highlights:

1) Kaitlynn and I were able to sneak away to the Twin Cities for a short birthday weekend excursion. (I turned 34 in October!)



2) We got to see this kid dressed head to toe in her Hufflepuff robe/Orca whale shoes combo for Halloween. She knows how to party.



## A Time for Prayer

This time last year I was prepping for a trip to Los Angeles for a few days of training with InterVarsity. So much has changed since then. Big trips across the country are postponed or canceled. Access to campus is limited. So much feels disrupted and unpredictable in this season...

One thing that hasn't changed: our dependence on God and His intervention in the work we're doing. Some of my greatest joys over the last few months have been opportunities to pray with others (as in the picture above). Whether it's with other staff, students, volunteers, or faculty members from campus, meeting to share ways that God is alive and moving in power while seeking His direction together has been a major encouragement! Ministry looks different right now, but the One who propels us onward in ministry is the same: a God who loves students and faculty and longs for them to have abundant life in Him through His Son, Jesus.

Thanks for sending me out to be a part of that work!



## What About You?

How are you holding up, Bethel Baptist? This year has taken its toll and I'm sure you're feeling it in one way or another. Maybe you even read my updates about prayer and longing to see Jesus known on our campuses and struggle to see where God could possibly be in this season...

I was reading in Isaiah a few days ago and found great encouragement in 6:51. God states clearly that the earth will "wear out like a garment" but that his salvation and righteousness will stand forever. This earth is finite and it's broken. We're experiencing that in very real ways today. But our hope doesn't rest in people or things that are finite and breakable. Our hope, abundant hope, is found in an unshakeable God who restores, who heals, who rescues. Whether today is a day of celebration or lament, a day of confident faith or deep questioning, I hope you are able to stand with the Psalmist when he says:

*I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord.  
(Ps. 27:13-14)*

I hope you know that you are loved. I think of you often and am so grateful for you and your partnership. Thank you!

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