

The White Rock Fund

Supporting Faithful Teachers for Future Generation

Volume 21; Number 1

Spring & Summer 2020

CORONAVIRUS IMPACTS THE CHURCH

As the coronavirus spreads across our globe Christian leaders are experiencing trials that impact God's church in every nation. Are there any "silver linings" in the dark clouds? Are there blessings that can come to believers as we battle this pandemic? Missionaries who partner with The White Rock Fund gave the following responses when asked: "Can anything good come out of COVID-19?":

FAMILIES ARE PULLING TOGETHER

"With Covid-19 gripping the nation and the Lord's church having to close its doors, a real opportunity has returned that has been missing for a century. The opportunity of families worshipping together in their own homes with Dads and Moms setting the example for children in a way that they don't get to see when they pile into the car, drive to the church building and the kids go to a classroom where someone else teaches them a Bible lesson. There is nothing wrong with that. But a family worshipping together in their home puts the parents out front and the children learn from a mom and dad who deem it important enough to have a home worship and to make sure it happens in spite of the circumstances.

"When I was growing up, we lived 7 miles out on dirt roads and an hour and a half from the closest congregation of the Lord's church. That meant that we had to travel north along winding Vermont roads, go over one of the major ski mountains and wind down through several small towns before reaching Springfield where we could worship with the saints. In the dead of winter this meant having to stop and put chains on the tires just to get over the mountain. But there were Sundays when the roads were impassable. On those Sundays Dad and Mom took my brother and me in the living room of our little farm house, brought in the grape juice and communion bread and we had our own family worship time. I believe God was there with us and heard us in spite of the wind whistling around the corners of the house and snow piling up outside. He promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20) What an awesome opportunity to live that verse in our own families even with Corvid-19 spreading fear through our land."

-- **Randy Gardner, Quechee, Vermont**
rgardner5700@live.com

UNDERSTANDING OUR MORTALITY

"What I am learning is how fragile and uncertain life is. There is no promise of tomorrow, so we have to live as though today is our last day on earth. "

-- **Willie Gley, Ghana, Africa**
wgleycbs@gmail.com



URGENCY OF EVANGELISM

"As a person living in the least religious state in the country. Over the last few weeks I have observed panic in the eyes and mouths of those who think they are in control of their lives. They have demonstrated it in their behavior at the grocery stores, drug stores, and in their rebelliousness to solid recommendations from our government. Their selfishness abounds in trying to control everything around them. This behavior is symptomatic of thinking things are out of control. What I have seen in our congregation is steadfastness of faith and a knowledge that God takes care of those who love Him. Our group is not in a panic and has been sharing their resources with family, friends, and neighbors. They trust God — that He will take care of them.

Our hope is that those who profess "True for you, but not for me" will realize through our behavior, love and generosity that what is "True for us, would be enticing enough to be true for them" if they will just take a moment and understand who is in charge. There is a God; He is alive and in control of all of it"

-- **Kirk Israel, Castleton, Vermont**
kisrael247@yahoo.com

"My mission trip is on hold due to travel bans being implemented in both South Africa and Zambia. The schools in Zambia are closed until further notice But Charles Phiri has just come back from meeting with the village churches to

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encourage them to be faithful under difficult circumstances. My desire to preach the word is growing stronger every day.”

--**Charles Hill, co-worker of Charles Phiri, Zambia**
chill@innernet.net

“It amazes us when we think of how quickly the Coronavirus has spread into the Pacific! Various church leaders have expressed concern over this “new virus” (as they called it), but not one of them lacks confidence in what God can do! The Coronavirus is reassuring them that it is God “...has not given us a spirit of fear” (2 Timothy 1:7). The Coronavirus may continue to spread quickly around the world, but the good news of the Gospel will spread quicker and *will never subside!* Thank you, White Rock Fund, for helping make this a reality for thousands upon thousands in the Pacific Islands.”

-- **Randy English, American Samoa & S. Pacific Islands**
thesonlight@hotmail.com



TRUST IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE

“I heard on the radio that “maybe this will wake Americans to buy what they need, not just what they want”. God will always give us what we need, Heaven, if we remain faithful to His word! If we live in Christ we will die in Christ.”

-- **Richard Renfro, Mission Printing**
renfro.richard@att.net

“Psalm 91 and Romans 8:31-39 and John 10 should always encourage us to draw closer in trust and confidence to our Lord - especially when we are feeling vulnerable.”

-- **David Carr, Australia**
davidgeorgecarr@gmail.com

“Lilian Urban is a 38-year-old doctor in Lombardy, Italy who writes that he is living a month-long nightmare. He said: ‘We have to decide who has the right to live and who must be sent home to die.’ After describing the horrors of this situation in the hospital he added; ‘Two weeks ago, my colleagues and I were atheists, which is normal because we were taught that science excludes the presence of God. Nine days ago, a 75-year-old preacher came in. He was gravely ill but he had a Bible and read it to those that were dying while holding their hands. Being physically and psychologically exhausted the doctors listened to him. As humans we have reached our limits. We cannot do anything and every day hundreds die. Two of my co-workers have died and others are contaminated. We all now realize that we need God and have begun to ask Him for help’ he wrote. ‘In spite of the 120 that have died in three weeks and our exhaustion, the preacher was able, in spite of his conditions and difficulties, to bring us the peace that we were hoping to find.’ The preacher died yesterday.”

— **Daniel Frerot, Strasburg, France.**
daniel.frerot@gmail.com 2.

DEEPEN SENSE OF BROTHERHOOD

“Nepal is having its own share of fear amidst the coronavirus. The biggest fear here is the lack of general health systems, hospitals and doctors in the country for all citizens. The poor economy here means most of our Christian brothers and sisters cannot afford to go to the hospital. The average person makes less than \$5 per day and unless the country is supported by bigger countries, there is no affordable hospitalization for the 30 million people —especially those living in rural areas. Also a lot of our normal life is communal due to lack of proper transportation and infrastructure so there is a fear of the virus spreading amidst daily activities. Our congregation is preparing to help our community and sister congregations in Pokhara and Makwanpur.”

-- **Dev Moktan, brother of Megh Moktan, Katmandu, Nepal**
delmoktan@yahoo.com



APPRECIATE THE LOCAL CHURCH

“With our federal and state government limiting assembling in groups of under ten, we will be cancelling our Sunday Bible classes and worship services. All of us will personally miss assembling for worship together on the Lord’s Day.

“Anxiety always increases when faith decreases. No matter how dire circumstances get, the Lord remains our refuge and strength, “an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). To trust in the Lord amid trouble is to experience and bear witness to the power of Christ. Check on one other in the Lord’s Body, loved ones, neighbors and others by phone, text, email or social media. A core calling for Christians is to care for the sick and dying (Matthew 10:8). This is the epitome of love.”

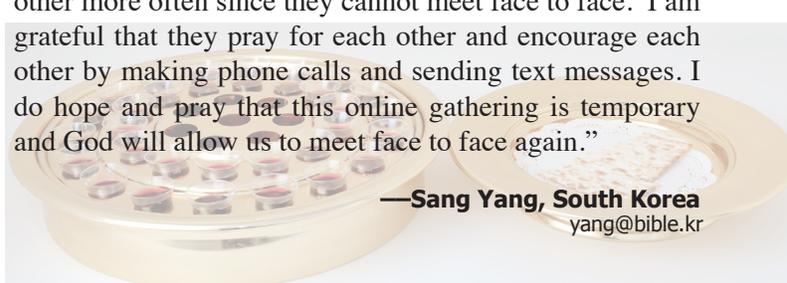
— **Timothy B. Tarbet, New Milford, Connecticut**
timothybtarbet@yahoo.com

“Since we started an online Sunday gathering we miss our regular services so much, especially the communion time.

“Thankfully, live streaming virtual service is available, yet nothing can substitute for face-to-face setting where we take the Lord’s Supper and edify each other. I have asked our members to prepare unleavened bread and fruit of vine (grape juice) for the Lord’s Supper at their homes. Nevertheless we miss an ordinary service where we have gathered in the same place.

“One thing positive I noticed is that our members call each other more often since they cannot meet face to face. I am grateful that they pray for each other and encourage each other by making phone calls and sending text messages. I do hope and pray that this online gathering is temporary and God will allow us to meet face to face again.”

—**Sang Yang, South Korea**
yang@bible.kr



GOD IS WORKING IN KITTERY, MAINE

Rebecca, and I have been foster parents of two boys, and we are working toward adopting both boys, if the Lord wills.

It is not unusual to have 50 in worship Sunday mornings. We continue to offer an evening service so some who work during the day may attend at night. Visitors often come to evening service, as well.

Thanksgiving baskets were distributed to service members at the *Portsmouth Naval Shipyard*. We continue to reach into the community circulating “*Christ for Today*”—a direct-mail periodical with articles on various topics of Christian Faith. We had a booth at the “*Kittery Block Party*,” an annual event, where we handed out Bible studies, pens with our phone number and address, and wristbands with faith messages. Such things make the church better-known in the community.



Sunday sermons are posted on our website and YouTube. We continue to livestream our services on YouTube and Facebook. Visitors often come from this outreach.

Recently Quinn, a young man and his sister, Adele, were baptized. They have been brought up in a God-fearing household.

The church nursery has been renovated for the influx of infants in attendance. VBS is being planned for July.

We are grateful for the support *The White Rock Fund* provides in reaching people with the saving message of the Gospel.

NATHANIEL HIOS, Minister
Kittery, Maine Church of Christ

WE BELIEVE IN THE WHITE ROCK FUND



John Wiegand

I am enthusiastic about the White Rock Fund because it promotes evangelism. With our culture becoming more hostile to Christianity, our response should not be merely to rehearse sound doctrine to one another, but to be bold in planting the gospel message in difficult environments.

—John Wiegand, Attorney
Burlingame, California

The White Rock Fund has supported Brazil Church Planting Ministry for many years. We value their partnership as we work together to enable Brazilian nationals to spread the Good News. Support of Giovanni Vantuil allows him to focus full time on teaching, guiding a congregation, and mentoring people in his home state.

— Clay Harper
Amarillo, Texas



Clay & Perri Harper

FINDING CHRIST IN CAMBODIA

My wife, Chuna, and I traveled to Cambodia to see how the Lord's Church is growing there. We have been involved in spreading the gospel in Cambodia for 18 years. Over 3,000 have been baptized into Christ and 60 congregations planted there. Most of the converts are former Buddhists.

We work closely with 18 of these congregations though in some cases, it takes several hours to drive from one to the other. A new congregation was recently planted in Takove, when 20 souls were baptized.

Contributions from American Christians enables the gospel to be broadcast in Kampong Cham province, and an additional 30 minutes every night on a station that covers the entire nation of Cambodia.

While on our trip to Cambodia we visited with my wife's aunt, who is a Christian. She is the wife of the governor of Soun Province. Her granddaughter expressed a desire to become a Christian and was baptized into Christ.

The White Rock Fund provides a grant to the Church of Christ in Melrose, New Mexico for the support of three gospel preachers in Cambodia.



Pauley, a preacher in Cambodia, has baptized over 2,500 people. He also serves as an elder in the Kampong Cham Church of Christ. He is in his late 60s and has serious health issues. Normal life expectancy in Cambodia is 39.



Kampong Cham Church of Christ

WHAT IS THE WHITE ROCK FUND DOING FOR MISSIONARIES?

The White Rock Fund provides grants to Churches of Christ for the support of over 100 faithful gospel preachers and efforts in 40 nations.

- 20,892 men receive Bible instruction in 1540 preacher training programs around the world
- Hundreds of Muslim children have a chance to attend VBS
- 17,515 souls were baptized "into Christ" in 2019
- Missionaries receive grants which enable them to serve *full-time* in preaching.
- 11 evangelists focus on state-side missions of Northeast U.S.
- 40% of grants are used to advance God's Kingdom in the Northeast U.S.--*the most neglected mission field in America!*
- 60% of grants are devoted to evangelism in 40 nations.
- Every preacher upholds the fundamental teaching of Scripture as detailed in the Fund's *Statement of Faith*.
- Contributions to The White Rock Fund are tax-deductible (just like contributions to the local church).
- Purchasing items from *Amazon.com*? Designate The White Rock Fund to receive a percentage of what you spend.

— Roy C. Justice, Trustee
The White Rock Fund

ANNUAL REPORTING AND FUND-RAISING

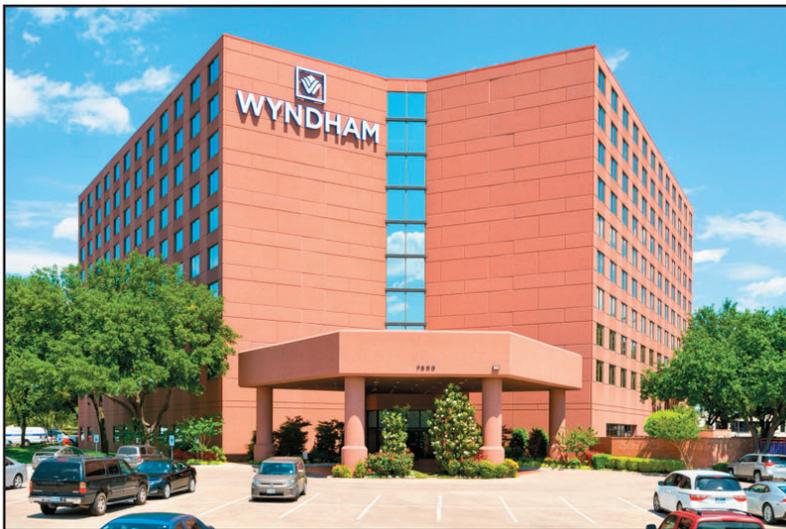
OCTOBER 17, 2020

10:00 AM -- 2:00 PM

**Successful Missionaries from Churches of Christ
Share What God Is Doing !**

Please mark your calendar for Date and Time

An opportunity to give and receive encouragement from those serving Christ in various mission fields of the world. There will be an opportunity to contribute financially to these good works.



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**Make your reservation for
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214-926-2747.**



RE-DIGGING WELLS SHARING THE LIVING WATER IN ZAMBIA

Charles Phiri, a native Zambian, is spreading the word of God in the Siavonga District. Combining acts of love and kindness (such as re-digging older wells and drilling newer ones) with the preaching of the gospel has resulted in many souls committing their lives to Jesus Christ and new congregations being established. Zambia is fertile soil for the gospel. *The White Rock Fund* provides a grant to the *Circleville Church of Christ* in Ohio for the support of Charles Phiri. Pictures tell the story:



Re-digging wells



Recent Baptism



Siavonga District, Zambia



Recent Baptism



BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

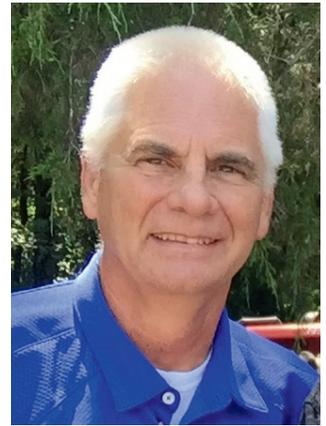


Dear Brethren,

Thank you for your donation to the Sudan Project that was received during January. Your donation and that of others allowed us to keep the work going and to bless several families in the refugee camps with some small food relief items.

The twenty-two South Sudanese students studying to become preachers at **Uganda Christian Bible College** returned to campus after their break over the Christmas holidays, and they reported some very encouraging responses to the sermons they delivered in their home congregations in **South Sudan** and **Uganda** and **Kenya** during the break. Nineteen baptisms were among the reports!

Because of your continuing support we were able to assist them with the various traveling requirement costs ... visas, passports, shots, bus fares and food money during their journeys. Some of them live hundreds of miles from campus. All were anxious to get back to their studies. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, and again, Thank you!



**BARRY C. SMITH,
DIRECTOR**

**UGANDA
CHRISTIAN BIBLE
COLLEGE**

WE BELIEVE IN THE REPORTING DAY!

**REPORTING
& FUND-RAISING
DAY VERY
ENCOURAGING**



Mac & Beth Brockman

“When we attended our first Reporting and Fund Raising Day of The White Rock Fund, we were greatly encouraged. We left thinking: Wow! It was worth the 5 hour drive to hear such wonderful reports of souls being saved all over the world. We felt we had received a “shot” of true Christianity! The personal reports made us want to do more and to give more to mission work. We appreciated what The White Rock Fund is all about. This is a day-time event; people can drive home in the afternoon. We are looking forward to hearing missionaries we have not met before on October 17. See for yourself how missionaries are in their hearts and lives and be inspired by their faith and courage.”

Mac and Beth Brockman, Montgomery, Texas



Mark & Twyla McSpadden

**HELPS
ELDERS &
MISSION
COMMITTEES,
TOO!**

“The Meadow View Church of Christ partnership with The White Rock Fund has been a bi-directional relationship developed over the past several years. In the past, Meadow View has received funding to help missionary work in the Philippines. Meadow View has supported The White Rock Fund for both foreign and Northeastern United States ministries. Exposure to missionaries at the annual Reporting and Fund-raising Day, has aided Meadow View's recent decision to support additional work in France.”

**—Mark McSpadden, elder
Meadow View Church of Christ
Mesquite, Texas**

Saturday Morning October 17, 2020

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Reports From Missionaries Around the World at the Annual Fund-Raising Luncheon



An opportunity
to contribute to
the missions of
Churches of Christ

The Wyndham

7800 Alpha Rd. Dallas
(Near I-635 and Coit)

LUNCH PROVIDED

Reservations: Call (214) 926-2747

THE WHITE ROCK FUND

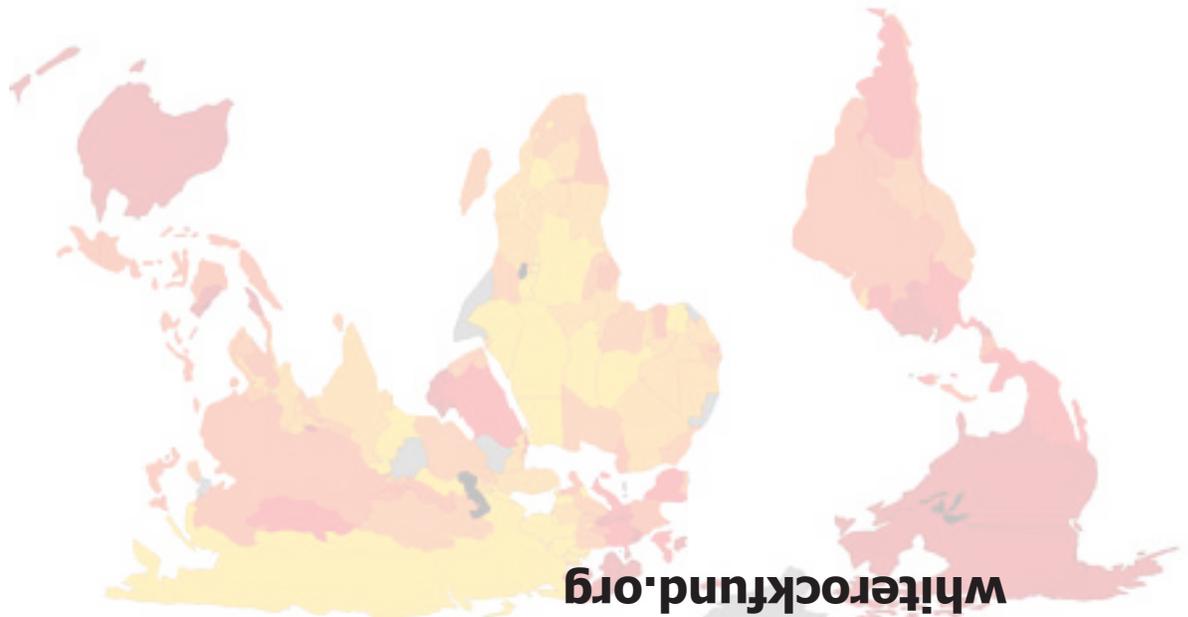
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