

PRAYERS NEEDED

Prayers for those in need of comfort and healing for: John Snyder – receiving cancer treatments; David VanWormer – continuing with chemotherapy treatments.

Prayers for those Homebound or in Healthcare Facilities: Grace Fenno – c/o Arkell Hall, 55 Montgomery St., Canajoharie, NY 13317; Stan McMillan – Palatine Nursing Home, 154 Lafayette St., Palatine Bridge, NY 13428; Alice McEwan (*Carol Cechnicki's Mother*) – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452; Paul Flint – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452.

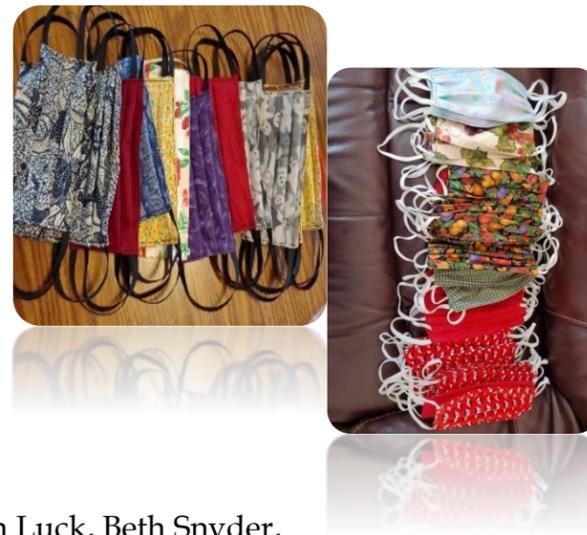
Are you in need of prayer, would you like to be included on the Prayer List or just want to someone to talk with? Know that you are not alone and that there are others who care for you and will pray for and with you. Contact Pastor Matt or phone the church office.

Thank You -

to everyone who has helped and continues to donate their time, talents, \$\$, and materials in making more than 400 facemasks to date. It is because of your generosity and help that we're able to provide (*free of charge*) face masks to persons in our community and beyond. Again, thank you for sharing your time and talents for others in these uncertain times.

A special "*Thank You*" to Darlene Spaulding, Beth Luck, Beth Snyder, and Nancy Robinson for the hours spent sewing countless numbers of masks for others.

Finally, from all of us *Thank You* to Teresa Draffen who continues to distribute these masks to folks from near and far from the front porch of her home.



Until we are able to join together again here at church,
please join us online for

Sunday Morning Worship

@ 10 AM

**Find us at: Canajoharie Reformed Church on
Facebook Live!!**

FRONTSTREETER: MAY 2020

The Reformed Church of Canajoharie

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Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Jeremiah 29:11 is one of the most beloved passages of the Old Testament because many see it as a rare positive word from God in a very difficult and painful book of the Bible. "*For I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the Lord, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" Many who like to choose one or two verses to hold on to in difficult times choose this one. And it fits in many ways. It is spoken to people in exile, who are away from home. It is a promise that God is still with them, even in a foreign land. This was a novel idea in an age when people assumed that each region, each country, had its own god, and the idea that the God of Israel could still be their God even while they were in Babylon was sweet, or at least one would hope they would see it that way.

Looking at the broader context of this verse, which is how we are to read the Bible, we find that the message comes to some of the earlier exiles. When God's people were sent into exile it wasn't all at once. It happened in stages. The first to go were well to do and powerful types. Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had followed the practice of cutting the head off what he saw was the snake by taking the most obvious sources of trouble away to a place he could keep an eye on them. It was these who Jeremiah wrote the letter at the leading of the Lord. While it is a promise of good things coming to them, it was also a word to them that the exile was their new normal, and they had better get used to that. The prophets that had accompanied them to Babylon were telling them that soon the exile would be over and they could go home. But this wasn't God's message to them. They were going to be there for seventy years, so they needed to adapt, to trust him, and to make the best of it. While the land was enduring its seventy years of Sabbath, which they had neglected, they were to trust God and find that he is God wherever they go. They are still accountable to him, and they still need to rest in him for help and hope. They could indeed prosper in the land of their exile, but they were not going home any time soon.

As we live through this time of stay-at-home exile, we may wonder when it is all going to end. At first we were ready to endure this for a time, but now with the weather getting better we are starting to get anxious. We want to burst the bonds of quarantine and be free. Let's be honest, sometimes the sight of each other at home, this enforced intimacy, is getting old for some families as well. Is this our new normal? And if it is, is it a time when God is prospering us? Do we believe that his plans for us are for our good, and not for evil?

I can't tell you the answer. I don't have the time table, other than as a scientific layman I suspect that we have to stay in a little longer than seems reasonable for us to truly get past this time, kind of like when we are taking an antibiotic and have to finish the course even when we feel like we're over the infection. In this time, we need to be prepared to adjust to a new normal, even after the virus crisis is past. Things aren't going to be the same, but we can also trust that the new normal will be better than the past, and so we persevere, trusting the promise of God that he does indeed have good plans for us.

Pastor Matt



Blake Cannon; Missionary; ENGAGE International
(Sunam Mazzarella's Brother-In-Law)



Who Are We?

As a mission agency, the Australian base of ENGAGE International is working to increase the breadth of our work in South Asia. We are more committed than ever to the training and mentoring of Christian leaders in least reached places, who will then reach out to the unreached people groups of the world . Our program has the goal of supporting local bi-vocational church planters to multiply God's work in their areas. As they plant churches in many regions their role is to facilitate the growth of indigenous pastors and evangelists who cross social barriers in order to pastor and evangelize their own unreached areas.

The role of church planters in our program is to serve as indigenous multipliers, training and mentoring Christian leaders who will then build on their work in the region. This is done in order to create strong indigenous churches in Southern Asia. Our role as ENGAGE International is to train the trainers. That is, we want to equip the equippers. The way we do this is to send quarterly equipping teams to different training centers throughout Southern Asia. While there, these equipping teams run one-week intensive training courses on such subjects as practical evangelism, church planting, mission theology and biblical studies. They also look at key theological doctrines necessary for the local churches to mature. Oversight for each church- planter's ministry in the region is the responsibility of a local national coordinator. His role is to mentor our church planters and to oversee the day-to-day on the groundwork of the mission.

Laying a Sure Foundation

We had just begun to adjust to life as missionaries in South-Asia when the world was struck with the Covid 19 pandemic. We had found a local church to attend and had begun to serve, we were in the middle of making plans for expansion of our Engage Church planter's training program and momentum was starting in regards to national outreach but now everything has changed.

Thankfully, the country we live in has relatively few cases of the virus (under 50). But it has taken major precautions to stop the spread. We are currently in full lockdown; the airports have been closed for a month with no signs of opening. Many expats and missionaries have left the country on emergency flights being repatriated by their countries; the shopping centers are closed which makes it a little difficult to get food and travel on the roads have led to arrests and beatings in some cases.

At times like these we often long for the familiarity of home, but we have no plans to leave. We believe that God has called us here to serve him and we only have a desire to serve in any way we can under these circumstances. We aim by God's grace to reach the people with the Gospel, build up the national church; and to serve our neighbors in their practical needs.

It is at times like these that the unique light of the church shines the brightest, unlike the unbeliever our citizenship is in heaven with Christ and for whom we wait (Phil 3:20), we long not for the comfort of an earthly homeland but for our heavenly country and city the new Jerusalem (Heb 11:16). Our hope lies beyond this earthly existence and we must not fear as other fears because we have the comfort of the God of all comfort through his Spirit (2 Cor 1:3-4), we must work while there is still time and we pray that God who is sovereign over everything that happens will glorify himself through our work during this time.



If you would like to learn more about ENGAGE International or receive our Newsletters visit our website:

<https://engageinternational.org/>



The Cannon
Family
&
Friends



MAY



- 7 Jozalynn Lanier
- 14 Erika Groux
- 16 David Perozzi
Cuyle & Heather Rockwell (1981)
- 17 * Kelly Dingman (Church St. Day Hab)
- 18 Brian Chlopecki
Mekhi Lanier
- 21 Bruce Smith
- 29 Ron & Amy Dievendorf (1971)

* Please send all ARC cards to:
Liberty Day Hab, 66 Church St., Canajoharie, NY 13317