

WWNTBM's Response to COVID-19

Hello, World Wide family. Over the past couple of weeks, I have been asked the following question numerous times, "What is your position on the coronavirus?"

Not one single missionary has escaped the effects of this virus. New church plants, Bible studies, evangelization efforts, revival services, furloughs, deputation meetings, all of our missionaries' **normal** methods of fulfilling the Great Commission came to a sudden halt. Regardless of one's opinion on the virus and the various world governments' response to it, one thing is certain, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world."

Satan wants nothing more than to use this virus not only to kill physically but to kill the spiritual life of the church and to kill the furtherance of the Gospel. To each of our missionaries around the world, and to those who pray for and support them, "Don't mistake the coronavirus as the enemy. It is simply another weapon of the real enemy."

My advice is this: "We need to pray! We need to bow our knees and pray! Don't pray simply for physical health and to be spared from the virus. Pray that God would strengthen you with His might, that you may have wisdom to fight the spiritual battles of the day. Pray for your new converts that they would not faint at the adversity of the situation. Pray that the churches of your fellow missionaries around the world would draw nigh to God through these adverse circumstances.

That as they walk these difficult roads, they would be able to comprehend the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge. Pray in faith, knowing that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, desiring that He alone be glorified in the church. Pray that He would use your testimony and the testimony of the believers in your churches as a light in this dark world, that many would be drawn to the light of the Gospel and be saved as a result of this virus.

When our eyes are only on the virus, when the focus of our prayer is only for our own safety and health, we concede the battle to our enemy. Rather than only requests for health, let us pray for strength to fight the real enemy. God is still on His throne. Let every temptation of restlessness and fear drive us to our knees to pray for a supernatural work of God in our hearts, in our homes, and in our churches, and in our world.