



New India Evangelistic Association, Inc.

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Patience & Meditation

March 30, 2020

Dear friends & colleagues in the ministry of New India,

“The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.” (Ps 46:1)

(a) Grace and Peace

Warm Greetings in Jesus' name! As we enter the second week of the lockdown, I hope each of you, your dear families and all members of your households are keeping healthy and safe. At the writing of this note, the number of infected in India is crossing 1,000 and the woes of migrant workers is making headlines. There is a sense of unease among our people, not knowing fully how all of this is going to pan out. The challenges in several countries also rises with high demand for the medical facilities and health personnel, which are so limited. Unfortunately, this has turned out to be a global pandemic with over 32,000 deaths so far.

(b) Be at Home!

The mantra at the moment seems to be STAY HOME - STAY CALM. Staying at home and deferring from entertaining visitors, is the greatest contribution each one in the society can possibly do these days. From what we know, the danger of this virus is the speed at which it spreads, the symptoms (dry cough, low blood counts) and moving into respiratory distress with pneumonia. As ventilators and isolation facilities are not available in any country at the scale required in a national emergency, it is wiser to prevent an infection by staying home in self-imposed quarantine - for self, for family and for all.

(c) Free time with Loved Ones

I was happy to have a game of badminton with my family - something that we usually find no time for! Preparing a cup of tea and serving our home help and driver, brought a smile to their faces as well. Frankly, the amount of time on hand now, if girded with patient waiting, can be a boon and blessing in disguise. Enjoy! Be at peace!! May the presence of the living Lord surround you!!! In the midst of turmoil, may the Lord grant you patience to endure this season of waiting and watching.

(d) Faith Foundations

I wonder, where your thoughts are leading you to these days? Surely we are examining our faith, surely we are considering our core beliefs and checking to see if our priorities are in the right place. Hopefully, the basic elements of our faith as given in God's Word remain stronger and firmer. Crises such as the one we are going through provides an opportunity to test the integrity of our faith.

Isaiah 43:8-10 is a reminder that God has appointed us as *witnesses on His behalf*. Even as the day unfolds before us, we are going to be having innumerable opportunities to talk about the unshakeable truths of eternity, salvation and forgiveness of sin to our fellow countrymen. May we meditate on His Word which says, “*You are My witnesses,*” says the LORD, “*And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And Understand that I am He*” (v.10) I sincerely pray that thousands of our fellowman will find reconciliation with the Lord in deep ways. God bless you as you share and be His witnesses.

(e) News from New India Corners...

Information from various corners of the work are as follows:

- (a) Students of various residential programs at our Bible schools/Institutes are likely to be in rather difficult situations, while considering if to return for full-time studies or not. Faculty members are waiting for more information based on the national scenario, before announcing dates of reopening which is usually June 1st week (in South India) and July 1st week (in North India).
- (b) Thousands of the children in schools and children's homes, are in their native villages with parents, foster parents or guardians. These are the most vulnerable members in our New India family, as villagers have limited access to the discipline of isolation or safety masks or broad protection at the village level.
- (c) All over, our pastors and evangelists in rural settings are facing hardships as weekly and cottage meetings during the week are all suspended. Some are bi-vocational and have no jobs for the immediate few weeks.
- (d) Translation team members are working from homes, doing their assignments as far as possible. Workshop and gathering with Church committee members are all in abeyance.

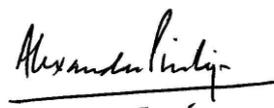
YOUR PRAYERS ARE IMPORTANT

> Please pray for the end to this pandemic and for the healing of our land. Please pray that our leaders in government, on the economic front and also those in the medical services- around the globe and nationally - that they would be protected and have the wisdom of God to make the right decisions in this hour of crisis.

> Please pray for the global Church and that God would reveal to the Church how to partner together to reach the needs of those surrounding us. May God use this time to pave the way for spiritual renewal.

Trusting in His Sovereignty and Grace,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander Philip". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Dr Alexander Philip,

Executive Director, NIEA – India.

Executive Director – NIEA, NIDS, CET