

God's Love



By Ron Coale

When asking the Lord what He wants me to write this week, He impressed upon me, "Tell them that I love them." Contemplating this brought me to a thought about God's love; Whenever I think of it, I always think of it in comparison to the human love that I know and experience. But God's love may be something more than I can even comprehend because I do not know it like I should. Even though I am created in His image, perhaps His love is so much more different than I can understand because I am not God, neither do I love as He does. For instance, It must be a love that we don't know which brought Him to the point of allowing His own Son to die for sinful man. When we think of this scenario, we can

only draw from what we understand about human love. We conclude God must love us so much more than His only Son. Therefore, we are that special to Him. But perhaps God's love works in a different way than we ever imagined. Perhaps it is so much more than what we see through a darkened glass now (1Cor 13:12). Perhaps, like heaven, it is not clear to us because when we experience it, we can only measure it to the limits of our human conditioning bathed in the corruption of sin. Perhaps God's love is perfect (1 John 2:5; 4:12, 17, 18). Perhaps in this life we can never understand it to its full extent. This would mean that there is much more love waiting for us than we ever thought before. So, I want to tell you, "God Loves You!" ~



Children's Church and nursery services are available for every service.

The Johnsons

Missionaries to the "Children of the Dragon" in Mainland China



Dear Folks,

We are at the end of the Chinese New Year's Spring Festival and Lantern Festival Holidays. Most of the shops and restaurants are open again and the fireworks each night are starting to peter out. It has been chilly, but this winter has seemed warmer than others. We've had some nice warm days recently, too, although the last few days have been cold and rainy.

One of my students stopped after class to tell me about her spring holiday. In China, Spring Festival is a 4-6 week holiday from school and others get a whole week off work. Many people return to their hometowns during this time. This student was excited because she said it was the first time she had seen her parents in eight years! She's 19 years old.

In China, there are a number of children called "left behind kids." These are children whose parents have left them behind with grandparents in villages while they have become migrant workers in cities to try to find jobs. It's not uncommon for these children to only see their parents once a year at Spring Festival or they may only get a phone call once or twice a year.

Husbands and wives also often live in separate cities and not just village couples. Many teachers we work with see their spouses only on the weekends or once a month or even less often.

There are to be a series of lectures or dialogues between Chinese and foreign teachers this semester and it has been specifically requested that Carolyn and I talk about love because "our office people need to know how to love their husbands and wives like you love each other." That's going to be difficult since the very thing that holds our marriage together is the one thing we are not allowed to talk about! Perhaps we can find a way around that rule at least partially. They seem to think we are experts on a good marriage while we feel anything but. Of course, spending time together is always a plus.

Please pray that we might have wisdom in speaking at these times.

Daniel & Carolyn Johnson



Chase & Vaida Smith

Missionaries To Lithuania

...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Co 10:31

Pastor and praying friends,

Hello once again from Lithuania! We are doing well thanks, and hope you all are too! I am sorry for the very late prayer letter this time, but I have been putting this off, over and over again, waiting for some news that we just were not getting, and instead of making y'all wait another month I decided to go ahead and forgo said news and send out our latest update. We are excited to tell everyone that after fourteen years of marriage, Vaida is pregnant! We are finally having our first baby!! We were originally waiting to write it in a prayer letter until Vaida reached the twelve week mark, and then we wanted to wait until we knew if we were going to have a boy or a girl, but during the last two trips to the doctor's, baby wasn't cooperating and didn't let us see. We are hoping to be able to see next trip. Something funny about this, is my parents will be getting a grandchild from us three months after getting a great-grandchild from my niece!! We are not sure if this is God rewarding faithfulness, or just feeling sorry for us, either way we are excited! Vaida is 20 weeks today, so thank you to everyone that has been praying for this!

My language learning has been continuing. There are days when I get frustrated, and really don't want to try squeezing one more word in my brain, Vaida has been wanting me to organize my Lithuanian flash cards, because they were randomly stashed around our apartment. I finally found a good receptacle for holding them, and seeing them in the boxes made me feel a bit better about my progress thus far, because I have learned well over 600 words. Around December-ish I decided to get really serious, so I learn new 25 words every week. Something else I want to incorporate into my language learning is doing a short object lesson for kids. Vaida's uncle brings his grandson to church, he is about eight, and I have noticed that kids don't seem to care about your mistakes when you talk to them (not that adults do, it is just easier for me to talk to them), so I figure doing a five or so minute object lesson for him would do us both some good.

Now lastly for the campaign this June. As of Jan, only 19 people were signed up, so if you haven't signed up yet, do it now! We had a great time when they came to do some planning, and we had some hurdles, but got a lot of things scheduled. Thanks for all your support and prayers!!

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they had committed (and which the LORD had committed to them) over 3 years ago. Next, our visitors from Colombia, missionary Marco Perez and national pastor Fabio Carballo (accompanied by his 15-year-old son David), arrived in safe and timely fashion. The “massive” special event of the Institute Graduation ceremony, involving 3 local churches (Valdivia, Paillaco, and our brethren from the church in La Esperanza [Misión Bautista Nuevo Amanecer, mentioned in previous letters, not only participated, but allowed us to use their excellent facilities for both services]), went very well, with both Bro. Carballo’s and Bro. Perez’s preached messages turning out to be very timely counsel from the Holy Spirit for not only the graduating students, but also the local churches as well (especially that of Valdivia, but we’ll get to that later...). The following day, we celebrated the churches’ annual water baptism outing and fellowship, all rejoicing together in the public profession of faith in Jesus Christ and following Him into the baptismal waters of our new sister Macarena (the ceremonial privilege of whose “dunking” was conceded to Bro. Carballo, as the first “candidate” he’s ever baptized outside of Colombia) and brother James (Bro. LaRue’s middle son). We then spent the rest of the week divided between public and pulpit ministry: street preaching, tracting, and personal work in in Osorno (our current primary destination), Lago Ranco (which we have already “gone over” [Mat. 10:23] in the past, but merited a return visit), and Mehuín (a small village in the extreme northwest of the region, on the coast, where we had never evangelized previously; pray for the salvation of Raul and Diego, as well as many others dealt with in those places), and then Bro. Perez and Bro. Carballo exhorting and encouraging the Valdivia and Paillaco churches during their respective mid-week service times. Of course, there was much smaller-group fellowship with various brethren along the way, and overall it may be said that the LORD greatly used our visiting ministers and the context of the surrounding events to both properly close out this phase of the ministry here (since we returned in 2015), as well as refresh and recharge us all for what He has for us to do next for His glory along our pilgrim’s path. The “Colombian Connection” will be traveling back to their respective fields of labor this first weekend of the month, and we request that you would also pray for them in their labors of love and works of faith amongst the souls to whom the LORD has directed them in Colombia and the surrounding countries in that part of South America. Thanking the LORD, and you for your prayers and support of all this, let’s move on...

Thank you for praying for Roberto and Montanna last month; the then-promised details are as follows: they had

been with the Valdivia church briefly back in 2011 but had moved away for university-study purposes. They returned this summer (southern hemisphere, remember...) and found us again via information posted on Bro. LaRue’s website, and have been attending and participating in all the services and activities this month, together with her (Montanna’s) mother Katherine (and I mean really getting involved). They are proving to be a great blessing to the church and are very enthused and committed

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PRAYER REQUESTS

607.	Pastor	Souls saved in Shelton.
680.	Matt	Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000).
973.	Dee	Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse.
1040.	Pastor	Judy Carr's quick healing from back surgery.
1042.	Pastor	Michael, whom I witnessed to, mother would recover from stroke.
1043.	Pastor	2 Jehovah's Witness, whom I witnessed to would see the error of their "gospel" and get saved.
1044.	Pastor	God's will for his life.
1045.	Pastor	Thanks to God for taking 90 year old saint home.
1046.	Larry	Jane's traveling mercy to Seattle
1047.	Dee	Clear vision to make the game for kids on her heart.
1048.	Wally	Shirley healing and peace.
1049.	Matt	Brother in law Tim healing from brain surgery.
1050.	Matt	Sister Amanda healing from pulmonary embolism.
1051.	Sally	Sister in law Stephanie has successful delivery.

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to serving the LORD as best they can with the brethren. Together with the Colombian pastors' visit, this has proven to be a very needed provision from the LORD right now, as the Valdivia church has quite abruptly and unexpectedly found itself in the untenable position of losing its meeting place with less than one day's notice. The details of how this happened would most likely be unnecessarily discouraging in this venue, and really the important thing to say here is that the brethren are "rallying" in a good way, pulling together to continue forward faithfully in spite of the unpleasant nature of what has happened to occasion all this (and, yes, because of it; see Romans 5:3-4 and James 1:2-4). Additionally, it appears most prudent at this time to allow for the situation to unfold and develop more completely (it's not exactly over and resolved just yet), and to allow for the LORD to do what only He can in it. We do ask that you pray that the LORD would open a door (so to speak) for a new permanent meeting place for the church, making clear to the brethren what they should and must do in order to be obedient, tractable, and acquiescent in the Potter's hands; again, there will be more detailed information next month, as the LORD wills and guides. Pray for Eder, a friend (or family member, not sure) of Roberto and Co. whom Pastor Raul led to CHRIST just this past week as well, while doing basic discipleship Bible study with them in their home; the same for Ignacio, whom Bro. Alfredo of the Paillaco church won to scriptural salvation, and who is also showing great interest in going on with the LORD. In Osorno, in addition to the aforementioned public ministry, we had also gone tracting house-to-house and preaching in the neighborhood we're currently "working" there, and had a "visitor" at the Bible study with the Alvarados: Aladin is an old friend of the family (and up in years, too) who recently returned to the

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NOTES:

area and has been spending a lot of time with them. He seems to have a testimony of salvation, but, as a product of Evangelical Religionism, we ask you to pray for him along that line anyway, and that he will continue joining us for the study (he expressed appreciation and interest afterwards). Okay, we're on the "home stretch..."

As indicated last month, we believe that the LORD has graciously allowed us to "complete operations" here, making "full proof" of our ministry in this area, with "all things...done decently and in order." As things stand now, our intention is to "wrap-up" the [mostly-personal] details here over the course of the next few months, in preparation for relocating permanently to Punta Arenas and the Magallanes Region in the month of July, as the LORD permits and provides. During the intervening months, our objective is to focus almost exclusively on "sowing and watering" activities in the city of Osorno, with a view towards the future planting enterprise of the LaRue family there; please pray continually for that. As a footnote of sorts here (in case anyone was wondering), our reasons for not leaving immediately (which we are "rearin' to" do) are strictly financial: the costs associated with moving and setting up anew prior to our "strategically scheduled" date in July would be "prohibitive" (to say the least). As such, we will be executing the standard "missionary liquidation plan" (the missionary's STUFF, not him/them!), scraping all our pennies together for the "jump," and starting over again from "zero" once we get there. Thank you for praying also for the Hansens, who are already there and getting started; things seem to be going well for them as well, and Bro. Derek is meeting regularly with Bro. Atilio (and indirectly with his family). We've also been contacted by Bro. Raul, who had been with the Independent Baptist missionary who had tried to get a work going there some 12-13 years ago now (but ended up having to leave the field); Raul has expressed interest in being a part of whatever the LORD sees fit to do with us there in the immediate future. Well, I've run out of space (and adjusted the font too many times), so: "To Be Continued" next month, LORD willing. Thanks to you all for doing your part, making it possible for us to do our part, in His work!

In Christ,

The Robinsons

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