

December 2020

Lawton Ministry Update



Dear family and friends,

I hope this finds you well and have enjoyed the Fall colors. It's been a colorful year for me on both a personal and ministry level so keep reading to learn more!

A SILVER LINING TO A PANDEMIC

Normally, the fall is swamped for me and my team with trips to colleges and universities, large missions' conferences, and job fairs as we seek to connect with people that God may be calling into vocational missions. But this year, due to Covid, everyone has cancelled their events and moved them to virtual. As a result, trips that would have cost us three to seven hundred dollars (for registration fees and travel) and involved three or more days of our time per event are now just fifty to one hundred dollars and we can do them in a few hours! So, instead of attending about fifteen events, my team and I have been able to participate in over thirty events with more on the way! There are always technical challenges and virtual meetings just can't compare with face-to-face conversations so please keep us in your prayers as we seek to find workers for the harvest.

MOBILIZING PEOPLE OF COLOR

This past week, I participated in an inter mission agency virtual conference and led small group discussions to look into the issue of mobilizing people of color into missionary service. African Americans make up about 12 percent of the U.S. population, but less than 1 percent of the American missionary force. This conference addressed issues of mobilizing people of color in this current environment of ethnic and racial discord and challenging all people to be on mission with God together. It was sad to hear of people's experience of racism in missions but also exciting to see that mission boards are addressing these issues head on and seriously looking at structures that may be preventing the body of Christ from being clearly seen as people from every tribe, tongue and nation! Please keep TWR in your prayers as we discuss and process what we are learning.



24 Plus: Mobilizing Communities of Color - Now Virtual



A WEDDING IN FALL COLORS

In case you missed it in my last letter, I was introduced to a wonderful godly woman (the daughter of a TWR staff member who was also divorced) back in May. And, on November 7, we tied the knot as husband and wife! We had a beautiful small outdoor wedding with all of our kids in attendance (two of mine and two of hers). My extended family was unable to attend because of travel restrictions but we plan to celebrate with them next year if we are able. After the wedding we spent a few days in the mountains of North Carolina (Highlands, NC) and enjoyed hiking the trails and visiting the many waterfalls. Please keep us in prayer as we begin our life together.



Thank you for reading my newsletter, praying, and for your partnership in making this ministry possible. May God richly bless you.

Alan Lawton
Director of Mobilization



PRAISE GOD THAT...

- We have had many virtual opportunities to connect with potential workers for the harvest
- The missions community is becoming more aware of the potential for people of color in missions
- He has brought Donna into my life

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- Our newly appointed missionaries to be able to raise their support quickly
- TWR as we attempt to be sensitive to the needs and challenges of people of color in missions
- Our marriage to honor God and that he will use us as a couple for his kingdom work