

July 2020

## Lawton Ministry Update



Dear family and friends,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe in these troubling times. It seems that this upheaval in society and our health security has driven people to reconsider how they're investing their lives in Kingdom matters. Even though the virus has hit our short-term missions' program hard this year, we are seeing a major uptick in long-term missionary applications! You can read all about it below. But first...

### TWR and COVID-19

### TWR'S COVID-19 RESPONSE



As people hunker down during a crisis, they seek information, answers to life's hardest questions and they're turning to radio broadcasts and the Internet as ways to gain access to God's Word. Although TWR's main priorities are proclaiming the gospel and making disciples, we frequently leverage our global communication abilities to help people trapped in disaster areas. In fact, programs responding to the pandemic are already being aired. TWR's Chinese Ministry promptly created *From Despair to*

*Hope*, short episodes offering encouragement and evangelistic messages going out in Mandarin, Korean and Japanese. In English and Spanish, we're broadcasting the program from Bonaire – the most powerful AM station in the western hemisphere! The program has also been translated into Farsi for broadcast into Iran. If you would like to learn more about TWR's response, go to [twr.org/coronavirus](http://twr.org/coronavirus).

### NEW SHORT AND LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES

Our summer short-term missions' program (internships) kicked off a few weeks ago as I led six young men and women through a two-day orientation and got them started on their assignments. They are really a nice group and are already working hard and gelling well as a group. Thank you for your prayers as we seek to mentor and disciple these young people into future greater missions involvement.

Since TWR isn't a traditional missions organization (looking for evangelists and church planters) but rather, looking for engineers, technicians, international accountants and bookkeepers, audio and video production assistants, it's always a challenge to find people that are willing to leave lucrative jobs in these areas to live on a missionary salary. However, in the last few months my small team is actually being stretched to keep up with all the high-quality applicants that we're receiving! What a great problem to have and I'm convinced that our and your prayers have made this difference. Just last week, we appointed five new missionaries to work in missionary member care, short-term missions' coordination, photographic journalism, and IT/IS project management – critical roles within our mission. And even now, we have almost reached our maximum capacity for our next round of interviews! God is good all the time.



### PERSONAL UPDATE

As you may recall, my son, Zachary, has been in the EMT Academy for the last three months and out on emergency calls for the last few weeks. Needless to say, dad (that's me) has been quite concerned for his health and safety and I had asked you to pray for him. I'm happy to report that, due to a number of circumstances (his trainee status, being the ambulance driver and a minor injury to his wrist) has mostly kept him away from patients that are showing COVID-19 symptoms. Thank you for your prayers. He's still wandering in his faith, so your prayers on his behalf would be much appreciated.

I was asked by the pastor of my church to lead a virtual "summer group" Bible study based on his new dramatized interpretation of the book of Mark. There are eight of us that meet by Zoom each week to learn more about each other and pray for each other to develop as much a sense of community that one can during a global pandemic and to interact and discuss the book of Mark. It's been challenging but fun and a great way to serve God and get to know some more people in the church.

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 so many people applying to serve with TWR
- The US-based interns have started well and are working hard
- Zachary has stayed virus-free during his EMT training

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- Our short-term missionaries (interns) to have a great summer and for God to clearly guide them
- Our fall planning to recruiting events during a pandemic
- Brittany's wedding plans and the family gatherings