

October 2020

Lawton Ministry Update



Dear family and friends,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe in these unprecedented times. I have some unprecedented news for you as well!

UNPRECEDENTED MISSIONARY APPLICATIONS

I was once told by a wise Christian church planter, that God can only grow your church up to the number of people that you're prepared to disciple. In other words, if you want to see growth, plan and prepare for it. For the last few years, we have been doing just that. We upgraded our application software to handle more applicants with a small team. We actively recruited more coordinators and grew the team 3-fold with two more staff members on the way. We developed in-house trainers and coaches for new missionaries. And the result? God, in his grace, is sending us more applicants than we've ever had. My coworker was running some numbers the other day to see how the number of missionary candidate interviews compared to years past and she wrote, "By the end of 2020, we will have interviewed 24 candidates (5 couples and 14 individuals)! By comparison, in 2018 and 2019 combined, we held a total of five candidate interviews and saw 15 candidates." God is good.



Of our most recent missionary appointees, we have three going to Africa to assist with our transmitter station that reaches into sub-Saharan Africa with the Gospel and two are coming here to Cary, NC, to help us produce and develop written content for our magazine and mission communications.

UNPRECEDENTED SHORT-TERM MISSIONS RESPONSE

Even though our summer short-term missions (the internship program) were largely curtailed by the pandemic, we were still able to host seven interns here in the US —two were remote but five were in-person! To read some of their stories, go to www.twr.org and search for "Spreading Hope Amid a Pandemic." You'll be amazed at how God led them to come and serve with us and how he used them over the summer. It's also amazing that three of these summer workers are already making plans to come back and serve with us long-term!



AN UNPRECEDENTED PERSONAL UPDATE

In case you haven't heard, I will be getting married this November! Back in early May, a coworker told me about her daughter who was also divorced and asked if I would be willing to meet her. So, in spite of a global pandemic, we met in a park (6 feet from each other) to have a chat. On August 7, I asked her to marry me and she said yes! I know that sounds fast, but at our age you pretty much know who you are and what kind of person with whom you are looking to spend the rest of your life. We really believe that God has brought us together and we have the support of TWR and our spiritual mentors. Donna has two kids and her youngest is a senior in high school. She works as a Clinical Trial Assistant for a cancer research company here in the Raleigh area and is an amazing godly woman!



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...

- He is sending us so many workers for the Harvest
- The summer internship program went great and three are planning to return as missionaries
- My small group leadership on Mark went well over the summer

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- Our newly appointed missionaries to be able to raise their support quickly
- Our 18 fall virtual recruiting events
- My wedding in November!