

# The Brennecke Journal

Summer 2020

Dear Friends:

In some respects it is difficult to keep our focus on Christ amid the din of blaring riots and the noise of a heated election season. On the other hand, when you fix your attention on unchanging truth in a world that is rapidly shifting and transforming, the beauty of our God becomes more evident. Isn't it good to know that truth is unchanging, and that God never wavers? His promises endure. As Peter tells us, we have "*an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith....*" 1 Pet 1:4-5.

**Stewardship Ministries.** I have shifted from a focus on meeting with people in person to connecting with people according to their preference. As a result, I have been on the telephone and using email to connect with friends of the mission. Even "front-yard teas" are being offered as a meeting option. While many people are concerned about Covid, I sense a rising interest and a keener awareness of the need to be "leaning into" ministry opportunities that the Lord puts in our paths. For instance, in May, dams upstream from Midland, Michigan burst, resulting in tragic flooding throughout the city. Up to 10,000 people were displaced from their homes. Through BMM World Relief, funds were sent to assist in the aftermath, meeting real physical needs with lasting spiritual results.

It is wonderful to see the gospel going forward in times of difficulty, and sometimes as a result of difficulties, as people come to the end of their abilities, and God reveals to them a much deeper, spiritual need.

Along the same line, our hearts are burdened for friends and family in Iowa, as they pick up the pieces after the powerful storm of August 10<sup>th</sup>, which flattened 10 million acres of crops, snapped off trees and power lines, tore off roofs, and flipped semis on the roads.

**Family.** The Lord continues to bless our family! We welcomed Evelyn Grace into the world on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Amity and Chip are helping Kristin & Nic care for her! Brennan & Lydia came up for an all-too-brief visit. They are doing well in Greenville, and it was splendid to spend some time together. Kaye has now relocated to Ohio! Natalie has started classes at the Cleveland Institute of Music nearby (YES!). Gunnar and Kim and I are home, enjoying life and our church family.

**Final News.** The Covid shutdown bumped Natalie's "From the Top" radio appearance to the programming week of September 7<sup>th</sup>! You can catch her on your local NPR station in the "From the Top" show that airs that week!

We are grateful for your partnership in giving and praying for our ministry. Thank you!

Steve & Kim Brennecke