

Hello friends at Covenant,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the many decades that Covenant has faithfully partnered with me in ministry.

I am not greeting you from my home base of ministry in Kenya. Why? Because, just as I was ready to return to the mission field from a short trip to the USA for cataract surgery (which went very well), I was unexpectedly trapped in place by the sudden pandemic-related travel restrictions. Fortunately, I am stranded in a small apartment at the PCUSA "House of Rest" in Pasadena, California. House of Rest has for more than a hundred years served Presbyterian missionaries in transit or on "home assignment". Those presently in residence here include families who serve in Zambia, Egypt, Indonesia, and Malaysia. A good internet connection is enabling us to continue to minister on-line. But my ten hour time zone difference between here and Kenya is a continuing challenge !

I have just signed an agreement to continue my ministry in East Africa for another three years, serving students, student workers and also pastors among the very poor. I will continue to primarily focus on Scripture Engagement and Leadership Development.

Last month we were forced to suspend our flagship Bible Conference, Berean Safari, for the first time in 14 years. We have had to suspend our massive end-of-the-year COMMISSION Conference for thousands of university students from all around East Africa. On-line ministry to students continues.

Before the pandemic, another initiative, Inservice training for poorly educated Pastors of a variety of churches, the Bible Discovery groups of ten to twelve pastors of very small poor churches had expanded from 7 groups ten years ago to 120 ! CoVid put these groups on hold as the lack of smart phones and internet access prohibited them from meeting, even online. Last week we began to restart with 8 groups coming together with CoVid precautions in place. And some of their churches are beginning to open as the seasonal rains are abating. During these months we have been able to providing some training for the facilitators of these groups. Please pray as we seek to reconnect with this vast network of committed, poorly trained pastors who work at other jobs while serving in the slums and on the frontiers of God's Kingdom. And pray that they would circulate true information about CoVID to their flocks. Pray for wisdom as I seek to return to Kenya in person.

Again, thank you my friends, for your partnership in the Gospel.

Eric