

Dear Partners,

Greetings from St. Vincent & The Grenadines where we are at the tail end of the hurricane season with a mixture of heavy rains and beautiful sunshine the dominant features. Thanks be to God we have not been affected by any serious storms this year including flooding and land slippage on any large scale. The Coronavirus pandemic is still around but has not adversely affected us. So far official figures indicate that there have been 78 infections, all imported cases. We have had no deaths, no hospitalization of course quarantine and isolation are mandatory. The health officials have managed the disease very well. What we have had is an outbreak of Dengue Fever, which is a mosquito borne disease. This has wreaked havoc on the country. It almost overwhelmed the main hospital on the island. I don't know what COVID-19 is like but I have seen the distress caused by the dengue and it has not been pleasant. It even hit our family. Nigel had it as well as my brother who lives in England but came down to holiday with us in January but had difficulties returning because of the Coronavirus and its effect on the airlines. September and October were extremely difficult times for us. There was a period when it seemed that I lived in the hospital. I was in and out so regularly visiting and looking after the personal needs of both Nigel & Arthur, my brother. They both are doing well. Nigel is still in recovery mode from the surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his anal area and subsequently a huge abscess which was extremely painful. He is eating well but needs to add weight.

Our intention is not to bore you with bad news, but we want to ask you to pray for the families of some dear pastor colleagues whom the Lord has called home to glory. Allan Gardner who was the former international director of Ambassadors for Christ has just died. Allan was my mentor. We last saw him and his wife Pam just over a year ago when he spoke at the celebration service of my 50<sup>th</sup> year in Christian ministry. He was a great inspiration to Pastors in the Caribbean during our 20 years of holding seminars for Pastors in our region. He and Pam were married for 65 years. He has left great footprints on the sands of time in regard to marriage and ministry. Last year October I travelled to Dominica for ministries at the church of another very good pastor colleague who was also a product of our training seminars. Edmund George travelled to the USA in August to attend to some problems with his eyes. He was to have returned home sometime this month but died suddenly from a heart attack. He has left behind three young children as well as his wife Sabrina who unfortunately due to the corona virus was unable to bring the body home to Dominica for burial and they themselves were unable to travel to the USA for the funeral which was held this past Monday. Pray for his wife, Sabrina and their two children Desty, and Naheim for God's grace, peace and financial support during this difficult period. As well as the church Beacon of Life & Hope Fellowship Church

- **Good News:**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month, which was last week Thursday, a general election was held here in SVG to elect a new government. We give thanks to God that the election went smoothly and peaceably. The previous government was returned to power under the leadership of Dr. Ralph Gonsalves who made history in leading his party to 5 consecutive 5 year terms in government here in SVG. We thank God for the government who is very

favorable to the Christian ministry and message in our country. While there are still lots of restrictions in regard to public ministries due to the health protocols that are in place. We are very much involved and intentional in ministry activities which include the production of radio programs which are broadcast on several stations in our region for almost forty years. We lead a small group at our house weekly, we are deeply involved in ministry at our church in preaching, leadership capacities as well as being involved with the wider body of churches as part of the Evangelical Association in St. Vincent & The Caribbean

### **Prayer Requests**

1. The Gardner's family in Virginia
2. The George's family in Dominica
3. Brian Hamilton the new international Director of AICI and his wife Linda in Canada who have contracted the Coronavirus
4. From August we have had a drop in our support which has adversely affected us in respect to meeting our monthly commitments. Pray that the Lord will provide an additional \$3000 to enable us to meet some financial commitments which are outstanding. Thanks very much for your prayers. Love and concern

Yours in Christian service,

Veral & Norma Blake