

Dear Pastors and friends,
March 2025

January-

This prayer letter feels a little different. I believe this will be the first report I have sent out in nearly a decade that did not include information about a missions trip I had just taken and/or a trip I was just about to take. (Almost always both) The Lord has blessed me with a unique ministry of Itinerate Missions. Or as I like to say, "Missions by Journey." The Lord has been raising up others to follow the New Testament pattern of Missionaries with no certain dwelling place who are willing and able to serve the Lord in multiple areas, starting more than one church simultaneously while returning to strengthen and edify established churches in many areas. I trust that, soon, this kind of missions will not be unique at all, but a regular method of global evangelization. Following the tactics of the original missionaries, Paul, Barnabas, Peter, Silas, and many others is the only way we can hope to accomplish the goal of one day saying, like Paul, "The gospel... was preached to every creature which is under heaven" in our generation. (Col.1:23)

Though I have not been able to take a trip out of the country, I have not been idle. My schedule has me preaching or teaching a minimum of seven times a week. That is not counting discipleship meetings, counseling sessions, and prayer meetings. Still, my heart is in travelling the world, taking the gospel to those who have not heard, baptizing the believers, discipling the baptized, and establishing churches where there were none before. I anxiously look forward to my next missionary journey! And yet, I cannot say for sure when it will be nor to which of the dozen places calling my heart. The next several months are going to be taken up with recovery from surgery and there will be many weeks of work I will need to do in order to regain strength in my leg afterward. I will need to take a couple of weeks for the surgery and immediate recovery, but I plan on getting back to preaching, teaching, discipling and counseling as soon as possible.

One reason I was unable to schedule a trip this last quarter was that I was in limbo at the mercy of Mayo clinic. I was waiting for them to announce a date for the surgery on my foot. Although, it turns out that had I scheduled one, it would have been cancelled anyway due to falling sick with bronchitis and pneumonia. I was hospitalized over Spring break and am still slowly recovering from that. Thankfully, I am well enough now that it should not interfere with the surgery that at last has been scheduled for April 4th.

This will be a six-hour minimum surgery where my birthmark will be cut out, down to the bones and tendons of my right ankle. A large chunk of my thigh will be cut out to replace the birthmark. It is an incredible, intricate operation, microscopically attaching blood vessels and nerve endings. My whole life I have been told that it is an impossible surgery, but praise the Lord, He has answered your prayers for me and made a way!

I am told that I will spend six days in the hospital, followed by six weeks of no weight bearing, and six months to full recovery. It will be a long, painful road. But so very worth it! It has been nearly five years since I was able to wear socks and shoes on my right foot. Much of that time I have suffered excruciating pain from ulcers and infections in the birthmark. Though I have been able to travel to many remote areas by plane, truck, motorcycle, and boat, even walking in Crocs or moccasins; I have not been able to put on boots and hike through the jungle to the remotest places in years. I am in awe that the Lord has seen fit to restore my physical ability through this surgery. I praise His Holy Name!

I am so grateful to you all for your support and your prayer! I ask you to bear with me for a season that I will not be able to travel. I promise that I will still be laboring in the Word and in prayer. I cannot communicate just how excited I am about the season that is to come once I have fully recovered! I know the Lord has big plans and this surgery has an eternal purpose far greater than my comfort or pain. I was (and am) willing to serve the Lord with a thorn-in-the-flesh that greatly limits my physical abilities, but since He has seen fit to provide healing, I cannot wait to serve Him with a whole and hale body again!

Please pray for Rory and my family as there will be a lot put on them while I am convalescing. We have had a lot of sickness lately and Rory especially will need health and strength to take care of me!

Pray also for Eddie and Lorena in Peru and Jared and Amanda Sostrom on deputation here in the States.

Noah and Katherine Bake need your prayers too as they are leaving on a survey trip to Uganda the first week of April. Noah is a graduate of our Bible College, and he was with me on my first trip to the Batwa tribe (pygmies) in Uganda. He and his wife were in the first Boot Camp that I ran two years ago along with Jared and Amanda. It looks like the Lord is leading the Bake family to go and work among the Pygmy tribes of Uganda and Congo! Please pray the Lord blesses their visit and uses them among the Batwa that I love so much. Lord-willing, they will be starting deputation soon and I ask you all to pray for that as well. It is so exciting to see young couples that we have discipled, trained, and invested in, going on to serve the Lord around the world!

God bless you all,

The Dover family, Jason, Rory, Grace, Jonathan, Joshua, Eliana, Alessandra, and Titus