

A letter received from Dick and Caroline Seed on 23rd June 2020

Dear friends

Three months have passed since the South African government locked down the country in a bid to avoid COVID-19 infections. Initially, the measures were effective but since the partial relaxation of restrictions at the beginning of May, the number of cases in the Western Cape has grown exponentially. However, we have heard no reports of COVID infections among the college staff and students. Dick has remained in good health. I was mildly ill a few weeks ago but had no testable COVID-19 symptoms. In all things, we give thanks to the Lord.

With no change to the travel bans in sight, Dick and I have had to adjust our plans for 2020. As we will not be able to run training sessions in person, we are busy converting our materials into online format. It is a huge task as the training was essentially practical and group-based, so everything has had to be completely re-worked for online delivery. We would appreciate prayer for time and energy to do this, as many other opportunities have arisen that compete for attention.

Although one might imagine that lockdown would 'close doors', we have been amazed at how the Lord has been opening them. Opportunities to consult with individuals and institutions in Africa and beyond have been opening up in ways we could never have anticipated. In addition, we are participating in a couple of networks of Anglican theological institutions, helping them to pray for one another and to encourage one another during the COVID crisis.

The lockdowns across Africa have given many of our postgraduate students time to work on their theses and dissertations. As many of them are college lecturers, the break from teaching has given them the opportunity to write chapters and generally get on with their studies. It has produced extra work for us as supervisors, but we are always happy when theological college leaders make progress towards completing their studies.

Please pray for:

- *Time to complete putting the Pedagogy training online.*
- *Networking and consultation opportunities.*
- *Postgraduate students completing their dissertations.*
- *An online course in research methods we are running in July/August.*
- *Our own mission partner funding needs for 2020.*

Please continue to send us your news so that we can pray for you too.

In Christian fellowship

Caroline and Dick