CHRISTMAS 2020



Chris & Jenny Jolin

Thave come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. JESUS IN JOHN 12:46

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Sometimes, things don't make sense until the end of the story. —Chris

Last year, as 2019 was ending, we were hearing things like, "Approach this new year with 2020 vision." We had little indication that 2020 would flip from the year of cheesy sayings into the year of COVID-19 and turmoil. As Jenny has said to me, in her own twist on a cheesy 2020-ism, "Maybe this year IS giving us 2020 vision for the things that are most important."

Jesus, through everything that has happened this year, has forced me to re-evaluate my priorities and identify the idols



in my life. You see, the gospel isn't just a one-time thing in which we place our trust and then move on with our life. It is the life-giving source we need daily. I've needed



to consistently return to it, especially in times of trial, temptation, and turmoil, so that I can be as James says, "mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Who can say where 2020 will end up, and who's to know what 2021 will look like? God knows. And He's in control of it all. Here is a prayer that is a classic, but is super appropriate for those of us who need to be reminded of who we are and who God is:

God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, Taking, as Jesus did, This sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it, Trusting that You will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will, So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.

OUR MINISTRY FOCUS AND RECOMMENDED READINGS FOR 2021

This year we will be answering the following four questions as we seek to be gospel fluent. Fluency is defined as "the ability to speak or write a language easily, well, and quickly." These questions are helpful as a method of remembering how scripture speaks to our reality.

- 1. Who am I? (In light of who God is)
- 2. What's wrong with the world?
- 3. How is it made right?
- 4. What does Heaven look like?

The ways in which the world answers these questions is vastly different from a biblical worldview. If we can faithfully think and speak a biblical worldview fluently, we can fully communicate the gospel to ourselves and to others.

As we seek to find answers for these questions, our ministry will be reading through some books this year. Please join us in reading them!

The Bible (obviously!) Prodigal God, Tim Keller Heaven, Randy Alcorn Radical. David Platt Don't Waste Your Life, John Piper



OUR NEW HOME AND MINISTRY

We are now in our third home in five years. The Lord has always worked in awesome ways to provide for us the ministry space we need for the season that we need it. In keeping with that pattern, He has generously provided a new ministry space (hopefully for years and years to come). It is our hope and prayer that all who pass through these doors will encounter Jesus. It is also our hope that all who leave will bring the gospel to their friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors.

YEAR END GIFTS AND GIVING

As we gather together to grow in God's word and in the gospel, we are challenging our soldiers and their families to go and make disciples. You are a vital part of this ministry! A well-known pastor said about missions and ministry that you are either going, sending, or disobeying. God is using you to bring the gospel to USAG Humphreys, South Korea. Koreans have a saying, **"Katchi Kapshida"—We go** together! We are so grateful you have answered the call to send. If you have not yet joined our monthly support team, please consider joining us as monthly ministry partners. Please also consider an increase in giving or an end-of-year gift. Your end-of-year donations help us to enter our new ministry year strong.





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