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Subject: the challenges are real, but our hope is sure
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Latest news from Chris and Sara Middleton

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Hope in the Midst of Change

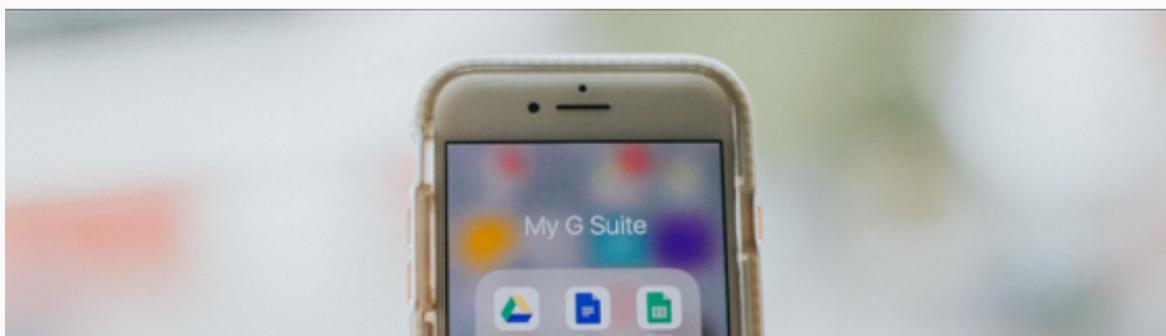


It's hard to believe that it's only been two weeks since all of our lives and regular routines began to change rapidly. Words like social distancing,

pandemic and live-streaming have entered regular usage in our vocabulary like never before. This is a unique moment in time, a challenging moment, but also a time of unique opportunities to communicate the hope of the Gospel. The amazing thing in the midst of this global pandemic, in the midst of constant change and insecurity, is that God is still the same. God is still the sure foundation, our rock, our fortress and our very present help in our time of trial.

Sunday morning we talked about this situation together as a family. We talked about how we feel, what we've found challenging since we all became homebound, what we're thankful for and what we are praying for. We took time then to remember who God is in the midst of this as we read and discussed Psalm 23. In Psalm 23 God is presented to us as the Good Shepherd who cares for, protects, guides, loves and is present with his sheep. These sheep who would be lost without him have the gift of his presence in all of life's uncertainties, trials and dark places. Even in the presence of our enemies the Good Shepherd is with us; he blesses us abundantly so that our cup overflows. Our greatest joy is knowing that in this life and the next that his goodness and unfailing love will continue to follow us and that we will dwell in his house, in his presence always.

We don't want to diminish the difficulty of this moment, but we also don't want to lose sight of our secure footing. Like Paul we want to remember, hold on to, appropriate and communicate to others this hope *"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow —not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below —indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:38,39)





Tuesday, March 31st is our Monthly day of Fasting to Pray. In this unique time we're inviting those already signed up to pray and anyone else who is interested to join us online for a time of prayer together. We'll be meeting at 1:00 pm on Zoom to connect, pray for one another and pray for Quebec. To join use the following link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/506418298>

Family Update

Like many of you it's been two weeks since we've had the boys home from school. When the school initially shut down it was only supposed to be for 2 weeks, but now school is closed at least until May 1st. We never set out to homeschool, but now we are. We're continuing to refine a schedule throughout the day for both Jude and Ethan that keeps them learning and developing in key subjects like math, French, reading and writing. Overall we're doing well, but we notice the strain and underlying stress that this situation has created. The boys are missing elements of their regular routine and life and so are we, but we are grateful for God's provision of so many things including our health, our home, all the supplies we really need, etc.

All of our church and ministry connections have moved online and so Chris is continuing to work full-time and we are connecting with our church family here regularly. We've also been trying to encourage some of the people from church who are closer to us through messages and so forth. We've also been reaching out to our neighbours with notes and

maybe some cookies this week.

How are you doing in this time? What are some things you are thankful for? How can we be praying for you?

Prayer Requests

- For the boys in the midst of all this change. They are finding it unsettling and frustrating.
- For Sara and I as we oversee their education during this time.
- For wisdom and direction in encouraging and reaching out to those around us.

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