

A Message from the PRESIDENT



April 2024

ITEM currently works in 14 countries across Africa and Asia empowering and equipping leaders to reach and disciple their communities for Christ.

**OUR MISSION:
Transforming churches, one pastor at a time.**

Dear Friends,

It has been quite a challenging few months. A few weeks after returning home from a trip to Asia, I began to feel ill and after some testing it was determined that I had experienced a stroke. Fortunately, the stroke was minor and the initial physical complications that resulted have now abated, and I am feeling great.

While the stroke was a scary episode, especially for my family, the silver lining is that it forced me to do some intense prayerful reflection about my life and future. In this newsletter, I just want to share with you some brief lessons the Lord has been teaching me through this episode.

First, I have become vigilantly aware of time. Theologically, we all understand that life is a vapor that is here today and gone tomorrow. Practically, however, we often behave as if we have all the time in the world. There is nothing like a life-altering event that forces us to deal with the fragility of life. The apostle Paul reminds us to redeem the time we have been given (Eph 5:16).

The clock is ticking. What we desire to do for God, we must do without haste. I recently read about a prominent Christian leader who collects clocks in every country he visits. He does so to remind him that his time is short and must be spent on those things that truly matter for eternity. I love this perspective! Consequently, I am committed to cutting out those things that waste my time and do not pertain to fulfilling the Great Commission.

Additionally, I have been reminded of God's sovereign care and faithfulness to me. During my MRI, the doctor discovered that my brain revealed three prior strokes I didn't know about. Anyone of these could have been debilitating or even fatal. Yet, the Lord is faithful. His sustaining providence has awakened me and given me a renewed confidence and sense of purpose.

I am committed now more than ever to our mission of empowering and equipping Christian leaders to advance the gospel among the nations. The clock is ticking. What we do for the Lord, we must do now. Let us work while it is day, for the night is coming when no man can work (Joh 9:4).

Thank you for your faithful partnership. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts make our work possible. We thank God for you!

Chris



THE TIME IS NOW
MARK 1:15

APRIL 18, 2024 6PM
The Life of the Lord
TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Join us for a special evening of inspiration and vision as we celebrate God's work around the world through ITEM.

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