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今年的宣道培靈大會比去年大不相同！去年，我們其中的一個講員 Chris Clayman 在他的《超級計劃》一書中分享：作為傳道人，不僅他所傳的信息重要，他自己活出來的生命更重要。在馬里工作期間，他願意放棄自己舒適的生活方式，從城市中的“帶圍牆的公寓”去到一個生活環境、安全、和隱私都較差的鄉村。搬遷可能不在我們的計劃內，尤其是現在，但我想起了葛瑞才牧師給我們的挑戰：成為“超越圍牆的教會”。耶穌離開天上的寶座，來到世上治病救人，憐憫窮人，與大家都不願意接觸的人交往，一同吃飯。Clayman 提醒我們，基督的光照不僅是為了我們的好處，也是“給他人的信息”，這意味著不再被圍牆隔離，而要超越現狀。。

今年，我們的生活模式突然被打破了，被趕出了舒適的生活區之外。原本每週正常的教會生活、學校、工作、休閒、和社區活動，現在都僅限於在我們的住所附近，且要保持社交距離。我們的暑假和宣教機會也被改變了。從很多方面來說，生活環境、安全、和隱私都降低了。然而，在這一切令人措手不及的意外變化和不確定性之中，我們作為基督門徒的信心生活仍舊不變而真實。神在掌權，祂在做工。祂是信實全能的神。

雖然我們不一定每個人都教導上帝的話語，但正如在世界各地無數的基督徒所行的，我們要學習主耶穌，活出神的道。這不僅是對已經在福音工場的傳道人的呼召，也是對所有年齡層、教育程度、口才能力，和不同背景的基督門徒的呼召。我們很容易進入一種心態，每年花 1-2 週的時間去不熟悉的地方短宣，但是去年講員提醒我們，隔壁仍有許多未得之民。是的，目前我們的互動很有限，但我們的影響力遠超過我們所想像的。

首先，也是最重要的，我們要活出神的道，讓基督的光照在我們家中。疫情之下，我理解與家人在有限的空間中連續相處所帶來的諸多挑戰。何止是缺乏隱私！無論我們的家人是否認識神，我們都需要保持警醒，因為自我中心的試探是常有，我們不要讓基督的光芒暗淡。作為紐約人，雖然疫情讓我們暫停下來，但我們可能很快又要忙碌起來。我們的忙碌

使我們常常不在家。從經驗上講，在繁忙的時候還要關愛家人確實有很多不便。但這是我們教會圍牆外的第一個宣教場所。我們有活出神的道嗎？

智能手機，把遙遠的宣教工場拉到我們的指尖。但同時，科技也難避帶來各種未經過濾的信息和觀點的試探。最近的 5 個月讓我想到了可行且有益之事。我們可以通過與親人視頻見面，分享照片和歌曲，給對方送上一份外賣來表達“我很掛念您”。儘管隔著時間和空間，我們仍然可以活出神的道。無論我們是否喜歡，我們的社交媒體已迅速成為公開的平台。我們參與的事，點讚的帖子以及我們的分享，都顯示了佔據了我們心靈空間的事情。那麼，在我們的家和教會圍牆之外，我們活出的是怎樣的道呢？是神的真理、盼望、主權、和慈愛嗎？還是我們活出別的道？

今年，我們在集體和個人層面上都經歷了一些黑暗時期，無疑，人生中總會有許多的黑暗時刻。但是，讓我們要記得那住在我們裡面的基督之光。哥林多後書 4:6 提醒我們，光從黑暗中發出！基督在我們生命中的光芒可能有時會暗淡，但總不會息滅，好讓我們自己和別人都看得到。在困苦無助時，祂提醒我們“這莫大的能力是出於神，不是出於我們”（哥林多後書 4:7）。弟兄姐妹，請不要灰心，我們的主正在以各種方式不斷地工作。祂的能力遠勝過我們所身處的圍牆，並且超乎想像！

What a difference this year's missions conference will be compared to last year! Chris Clayman, one of our speakers from last year, shares in his book Superplan, that as a missionary, it's not just about the message he teaches, but the message he lives. While serving in Mali, he willingly changed his lifestyle from a "walled-off apartment" located in the city into a rural village with less comfort, safety, and privacy. Physically relocating somewhere may not be in any of our plans, especially now, but I'm reminded of the challenge Pastor Rick has given us to be a "Beyond Walls Church." Jesus left his throne to live God's message as he healed the sick, had compassion for the poor, and as he walked and ate with people others didn't want to

associate with. Clayman reminds us that Christ's light in us isn't only for our benefit but it's also "a message *to others*" and that means no longer being walled-off and going beyond.

This year, we've been thrown out of our comfort zone as the patterns of our lives were quickly disrupted. The normalcies of each week between church, school/work, leisurely times, and community are now limited to the confinements of our homes and social distancing. The expectations of our summer vacations and ministry opportunities remolded into something different. In many ways, we've also experienced less comfort, safety, and privacy. Yet in the midst of inconvenient unwanted changes and much uncertainty, our message remains constant and true as Christ-followers. God is in control. He is working. He is faithful and sovereign.

While we may not all teach God's message, we are to live it out as Jesus did. And that so many Christ-followers around the world do today. This is not a calling only for those in missions or ministry. This is not limited to the educated and eloquent adults, but for all Christ-followers of all ages and backgrounds. We can easily get into the mindset of focusing our missional living to 1-2 weeks a year in some less familiar place, but we were reminded last year that there are plenty of unreached people next door. Yes, our interactions are limited at the moment but our reach of influence is greater than we may realize.

First and foremost, we live out God's message and shine Christ's light in our homes. With COVID, I understand the many challenges that come from sharing this extended time in limited spaces with our family. Experiencing a lack of privacy is probably an understatement! Whether our families know Christ or not, we need to remain alert in not letting His light flicker because we will always be tempted to put ourselves first before others. As New Yorkers, no matter what hiccups COVID threw our way, we probably quickly became busy again if not busier than before. Our busyness often pulls us away from being present in our homes. Speaking from

experience, supporting and loving our families when busy can feel like an inconvenience. But this is our first mission field beyond the walls of our church building. Are we living out God's message?

Another socially distant mission field we have is right at our fingertips, thanks to our very smart phones. With technology, I struggle to see past the dangers of being exposed to so much unfiltered information and opinions. But these last 5 months reminded me of the good that can be done. We can live out God's message through facetimeing with loved ones, sharing photos and songs, sending a quick "I'm-thinking-of-you-meal" despite however many miles or hours are in between. Whether we like it or not, our social media lives have quickly become a very public platform. The things we engage in, posts we like, and information we share show a glimpse of the things that take up space in our hearts and minds. So what message are we living beyond the walls of our homes and church building? Is it a message of God's truth, His hope, His sovereignty, and His love? Or are we living another message?

We've hit some dark times this last year, collectively and also on personal levels. We can be sure more dark times will be had in our lifetime, but let us remember Christ's light that dwells in us. 2 Corinthians 4:6 reminds us that light shines out of darkness! Christ's light in our life may flicker here and there, but may it remain lit, both for ourselves and for others to see. In our hardships and in our helplessness, we are reminded that "the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). So don't lose heart, sisters and brothers, our Lord works in ways beyond our walls and what we think is possible.