

# Your Pandemic Mission

April 26, 2020

Colossians 1:24-29

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) What did you learn about Mission Aviation Fellowship from the pre-sermon video? (You can learn more about the Pederson's ministry with MAF here: <https://www.maf.org/pederson>.) Garth Pederson is currently a 'mobilizer' for MAF, looking for people interested in exploring missions opportunities with MAF. Do you know of anyone who might be a good candidate for MAF that you could put in touch with Garth?

### [Garth and Jody Pederson - Mission Aviation Fellowship \(MAF\)](#)

Garth and Jody Pederson have been serving as missionaries with Mission Aviation Fellowship since 1995. They worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo for 21 years where Garth served as a Pilot/Mechanic, also taking leadership roles as Program Manager, Aviation Accountable Manager, and Instructor Pilot. [www.maf.org](http://www.maf.org)

- 2) Dan made the statement that, as we listen to missionaries and hear about their commitment to making Christ known among the nations, it causes us to examine our own commitment to making Christ known to those around us. Do you find that to be true? Why or why not?
- 3) Colossians 1:25 indicates that Paul understood himself to be a 'minister' (the word simply means 'servant') 'commissioned' by God. Discuss whether you see yourself as a 'minister' in this sense. Look up the 'Great Commission' in Matthew 28:18-20. Who does this 'commission' apply to? How does it apply to you?
- 4) In Colossians 1:26-27 Paul describes the gospel message as a 'mystery.' Dan said that Paul is using the Old Testament (Jewish) understanding of what a 'mystery' is, as seen in Daniel 2. How does Daniel 2 use the term 'mystery' in describing King Nebuchadnezzar's dream? How does this help us understand why the gospel is a 'mystery' to the unbelieving mind?
- 5) In Colossians 1:28 Paul teaches that 'proclaiming' Christ involves 'warning' (or 'admonishing') and 'teaching.' Commentator N.T. Wright explains that the 'warning' here is the idea of the setting of someone's mind into proper order, with the implication that it has been in some way out of joint. This involves straightening out confusions someone may have about the gospel and addressing ideas that are muddling their mind, so that positive 'teaching' (communicating Christian truth) will be received. How does this describe what we are to do in sharing the gospel with people? What confusions about the gospel and muddling ideas did you have that had to be overcome before you could understand and respond to the gospel?
- 6) In Colossians 1:24 Paul speaks of the suffering he has experienced in faithfully carrying out his ministry. He is not comparing his suffering to the redemptive suffering of Christ that saves us. But Paul is teaching that our faithful ministry of making Christ known to others will 'cost' us something. That 'cost' may be very great, as in the case when Christians are persecuted and martyred. But for many of us it may simply involve the burdens, anxieties, and sacrifices involved in sharing the gospel with others and helping them grow in Christ. What examples of such suffering have you seen that are the direct result of someone making Christ known? How does God use a Christian's suffering to make Christ more fully known?
- 7) In Colossians 1:29 Paul speaks of where the power to endure in ministry must come from. Have you experienced 'burn-out' or 'compassion fatigue' as you have ministered to people? How can we rely more on Christ's 'energy' working through us as we minister?