



Dear friends,

Six weeks ago we were in a stadium jam packed full of Brazilians crying out for a move of God through the nations of the world. Followed by our Iris Global Brasil family gathering where all our missionaries in Brasil came together and to encourage one another and make plans for the coming year. Well in such a short time it now seems like we are in a different planet and much has changed.



The Send: a missions sending event that brought together over 140,000 hungry Brazilians for 12 hours of prayer and worship.



The iris Global missionaries here in Brazil. We have 6 bases spread across Brazil bringing the love of Jesus to the rubbish dumps, slums, red light zones and unreached villages in the Brazilian backback.

Strong Convictions in the midst of many uncertainties

We are in a time of many uncertainties. Even the world's leading scientists and experts are full of uncertainties as we tread uncharted waters in the modern world. People are uncertain about whether they will catch this virus, uncertain of how they will be able to pay their bills next month as many people lose their income and uncertain of when and how all this will end.

However although I also have many uncertainties about many things, my convictions are still strong and clear. My convictions that God is good, God is faithful, God is kind, loving and in control! For me the circumstance we are going through don't change these truths and convictions. But rather these truths and convictions help me anchor myself and form the lens through which I interpret the circumstances around us.

Weekly in church services around the country we declare and sing our convictions about God but it is only when our circumstances seem to oppose these truths that we see how strongly we hold these convictions in the core of our being.

Joshua 14:7 recalls how Caleb returned from his scouting mission to the promised land and gave a report 'according to his **convictions**! Yes he saw the land was with fortified cities and 'giants' but he was also convinced of the truth that God was more powerful and would help them overcome their vast enemies. He was lead by his convictions, whilst the majority of the spies where lead by their circumstances. We need to walk by faith and not merely by sight, by truth and not just by facts and by our convictions and not just our circumstances. Our inner convictions of who God is needs to change our external circumstances, rather than vice a versa.

While we should definitely comply and follow all the plans and restrictions so cleverly and carefully worked out by the UK government, there is only one flaw in all their calculations. They have not figured God and his supernatural into any of their equations and hypothesis. We can't fail to make that same mistake in our own personal responses to this virus.

It is a time for our convictions of who God is to be shown to the world in the way we live and carry ourselves during these difficult weeks ahead. Do we really believe what we say we believe? To profess our faith is one level, to live it is another. In this time of lock down and lessened activity let's allow our convictions and truths of who God is to settle deep down into our inner being by taking time to mediate on His word in the presence of His Spirit.

I just want to finish with these verses from Romans 8.

35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."*

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let's not let the familiarity of these verses take away their power and let's make sure we not only read them but are living them out as truth in our daily lives.

If we are convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ and his love is more precious than life to us, then as we wrap ourselves in His love for us we will be able to continue to walk with peace and joy in the midst of this storm, and his perfect love will cast out all fear!

We are praying for you, as each one of us navigate the different challenges this crises will bring to us.

Unfortunately here we have had to cancel our missions school that was meant to start at the end of this month and many other activities. We are praying for wisdom and creative strategies on how best to reach the vulnerable around us, whilst complying with social distancing regulations. The spread of the virus in Brasil is only just starting to ramp up and it will be in the coming weeks that we will really see the full effects and the associated problems that we will have to bring Jesus' solutions to.

Please keep us in your prayers also!

Much Love

Andrew, Claudia, Jessica, Ana Keziah and Noah
