

The Riedy Reader

May 2020



Steve & Judy
Douglass

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Is. 55:8-9

One analogy I've heard for this idea of God's perspective has been to consider it something like a tapestry or cross-stitch. We see the back of the piece with knots and threads hanging everywhere, but God views the front side of beauty, order, and a clear picture. Right now I feel like our whole country has been a bunch of knots and loose threads! If there was ever a time that I would LOVE to understand the 'ways and thoughts' of God, this crazy COVID-19 time would be it! Though I know we won't fully

see this side of heaven, it was encouraging to get an email from Steve Douglass recently (4/30) with some glimpses of the good coming out of this crisis. Let me share just a few of his ideas paraphrased below:

Because a significant percentage of the population seems to be experiencing fear and loss of hope, they are more open to the gospel.

Leaders who minister through digital means tell me there are dramatic increases in online searches on finding hope and peace, and overcoming fear and worry. A man in Kenya wrote of his deep concern over the pandemic, but upon receiving Christ, that he was "now happy as a child of God." Another person asking for help on a ministry website said, "I'm not really a religious person, but I don't know who else to turn to but God."

The means now exist to touch the lives of the vast majority of people on earth without face to face contact! As more people find themselves out of a job, those who are strong Christians among them may well have more time to minister to others digitally.

A few months ago it was estimated that 62% of the world's population now uses mobile phones. That means,

Digital Resources



Looking for some of those digital resources to share? Here are a few to consider:

Jesus Film App: A full digital library of more than 200 full-length movies, mini-series, and short films produced to help the world know Jesus better.

familylife.com/notcanceled/ - A collection of COVID-19 related resources that we have produced all in one place for easy access

Subscribe to FamilyLife's YouTube, Instagram, and FaceBook for easy sharing of articles & videos

FamilyLife App places SO many resources right in your pocket on your phone!

by phone, we have opportunities to get the Good News to about 4.8 billion people. Just WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger have 1.5 billion and 1.3 billion users respectively.

Add to that all the video streaming capabilities and more personalized communication opportunities. No surprise that during one week in March, Cru's digital resources (including FamilyLife.com) were accessed from **every country on earth!**

Earlier in April, Steve Douglass announced his plans to step aside as president of Cru®. Steve has been in that role since 2001, making him only the second person to hold this role (Bill Bright was founder and president until stepping down in 2001). I am thankful for his steady hand of leadership through these uncertain times but also know that God will provide wisdom to the Cru Board of Directors as they search to fill that role. Please pray along with us for their decision.

In Him,

Here are **4 attitudes for COVID-19 recovery** that will strengthen your ability to navigate differing views and approaches:

1. **COVID-Optimistic people are a blessing to my life.** It keeps me hopeful about the future and enables me to embrace uncertainty as opportunity.
2. **COVID-Cautious people are a blessing to my life.** It keeps me sensitive to the needs and concerns of others and enables me to make prudent decisions.
3. **Different gifts and approaches make us all more effective.** Pride demands that everyone do things the way we demand. Read 1 Corinthians 12 and celebrate different gifts.
4. **People matter more than my opinion.** Being in healthy relationships with people is a privilege that requires me to love others above myself. When I am highly opinionated, I can needlessly hurt others.

What will it matter if we re-assimilate only to end up "socially distant" again not because of a virus, but because of our inability to love others who approach COVID-19 differently than we do?

(Tips from: [Navigating Different COVID-19 Recovery Convictions](#) by Costi Hinn April 28, 2020)

Tear & Prayer



Pray for many upcoming family decisions—lots of moving pieces with ministry move, college decisions, a serious boyfriend for Charissa and more

Pray for wisdom for Cru as a whole & FamilyLife esp. as we navigate national COVID-19 recovery

Praise for amazing creativity of ministry & outreach ideas during this time-lots of impact!

Praise for strong leadership, both past and present, in our ministry through these hard times.

Praise for Amanda & Brenna completing their school years from home. Amanda will be a high school senior & Brenna a college Sophomore.