

August 8, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters of North Edmonton Alliance Church,

Although the airport of Aruba reopened after two months, flights kept getting cancelled and we have had to rebook our flights over and over again. As we started to feel a bit anxious, we continued to train our patience, clinging onto the truth that God sees us where we are and is faithful to meet our needs. After much waiting, we were finally able to book new flights for August 1. Our heartbeat would quicken each time we received an email from the airline, for fear that our flights would be cancelled again. Thankfully, the notification was only to alert us of a time change, which allowed us to catch our connecting flight to Edmonton on the same day without having to spend an extra night in Toronto. Praise God for providing and allowing us to leave Aruba in the afternoon of Aug 1 and get back to Edmonton that same night.

With five check-in's and two hand-carry in tow, we brought a total of seven luggages to the airport only to find the buggies were sealed-off and not available for use. Fortunately, our friends who drove us to the airport pitched in to help and we were able to get checked in smoothly and boarded. As I sat there looking at Iris, we both agreed that we need to pray and ask God to help us get through Toronto within the tight timeframe of 90 minutes. Upon arrival in Toronto, the first thing we did was look for buggies in the luggage area. Praise God for answering our prayers that there were free ones to use and we were able to clear customs and board our connecting flight without any problems.

Once we got back to Edmonton, we began our 14-days of quarantine. Being confined at home took some adjustment, but with health risks at stake, we followed the AHS directives to keep ourselves and other safe. Even though we were in isolation, with the help of technology we were able to continue working with our pastoral staff, elders and ministries. Thank God for His grace and providence. Furthermore, we have experienced the loving care of our brothers and sisters, providing us with food and other needs. We are so grateful for their generosity.

Although we do not know when the pandemic will be over, the ministries of NEAC continues. The methods and models may be different, but we continue to strive to build up the body of Christ, love God and love people, multiplying disciples everywhere. We do all these for the sake of the gospel. It is my sincere hope and desire that we will put more effort into improving communication, increasing transparency and being more receptive, acceptive and respectful for each other's circumstances in order to achieve unity as the body of Christ. May we truly treat God's home as our own.

Let me share a Bible verse from James that we may encourage one another.

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." - James 5:16 (NIV)

Emmanuel,

Rev. Gabriel Li