

Christmas 2020 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Dear Praying Friends, As we enter the last month of the year and the first week of Advent, I want to thank all of you for your faithfulness during this difficult year. I thank God for your faithful financial support and prayers, without which the ministry would have perished. First of all, the good news. Tidings of comfort and joy. The I. M. translation team is revising the last draft of the books Romans to Jude. Illustrated Bible stories in I. finally got to the press for binding and we expect to have it delivered by Christmas. P. is making progress. However, the translator cannot connect to the internet, so I'll have to pay him a visit. He should be well on his way to finishing Deuteronomy. We are a little behind schedule. Not being able to visit the teams has made it difficult. Travel rules are so strict that it is almost impossible to leave town. But the good news is due to the stringent measures taken by the authorities, this remote region of the country has the lowest cases of infections and fatality. It is one of the safest places in the world. An unexpected outcome of lockdown is the increase in video meetings over the internet. As schools and colleges remain shut indefinitely, teachers are scrambling for resources. I suddenly found myself being asked to give talks to students of linguistics. More on the next page. And now for the bad news. If rearranging my work schedule and methods was not enough of a challenge to contend with, the government decided to change the rules. Even before they changed the rules the banks changed the rules and they refused to honor the remittance sent for the ministry. As I was struggling ways to receive funds, the government stepped in and made things even more difficult. Ordinarily, any organization receiving foreign funds needs to register with the government. This involves having a bank account for the sole purpose of receiving overseas funds. Now the government has gone a step further and said all registered organizations have to open their accounts in Delhi, at a bank specified by them. After that we can transfer funds to our existing accounts. We are no longer allowed to receive funds at our previously approved bank accounts. Never mind that Delhi is several thousand miles away. We have the provision to open the account remotely and operate it remotely, but with many new caveats. I mentioned in my last letter that I have not been able to buy the car as all showrooms were closed. As soon as I open the new bank account, I'll have the last instalment sent and I'll be ready to get my new car at last. Thank you everyone for your contributions. Finally, please uplift the following items in your prayer time 1. Praise and thanksgiving for His faithfulness during these awesome days. 2. For the safety and well-being of the I. and P. translation teams. 3. Pray that I will get relief from back pain. 4. Pray that I will find ways to serve those who have lost their livelihood. And may the Lord protect and provide for all of us.

For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jer. 29:11 (NIV) Progress Report I. M. ☞ The team is currently reviewing all that has been translated. This is almost the entire NT (1 and 2 Peter, Hebrews and Revelations pending). I am currently making notes for 1 and 2 Peter. ☞ Our new translator, E. U., is learning fast. The book of Jonah is now being checked for accuracy in exegesis. E. also just got married. ☞ I have begun my work on the I. hymnbook with music. Thanks to your generous contribution to my computer funds, I am all set with music notation software and a better system to handle the music. But there is a learning curve. P. S. has now completed Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and is now working on Deuteronomy. I have not been able to get updates from him as he does not have access to the internet. We have the option of backing up to an external drive, however. Academia One of my dreams has been to train young linguists to do the kind of work I do. But due to my travels I could not coordinate my schedule with the local universities. But now with educators looking for online resources I have been added to academic groups,

serving several universities. My first talk will be the second Saturday of this month. I will be demonstrating the various software I use in linguistics research. The talks are on Zoom, and other digital platforms. So now instead of being involved with one university, I am now interacting with students and professors from many universities and colleges in the region. The only drawback for me is that the extended hours sitting in front of a computer has affected my lower back and neck. I'm learning to take breaks more often to ease the pain. Looking ahead Planning for an uncertain future may seem like an exercise in futility for some. But for those of us who trust in an omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent Creator, we know all things are possible. The teams will be continuing with our goals of completing the I. New Testament and song book (with music). I will be trying to get the final draft done soon so I can estimate printing costs. Supplies are limited these days so the exact dates of publication will depend on how soon we can get the supplies we need. P. is almost done with the Pentateuch and a song book (without music). Finally, while we have not been as severely affected by the pandemic, it still has had a devastating impact on self- employed people. I have been able to provide temporary help to two young people who lost their jobs. They are now helping me in assembling and binding the books that I am preparing. Emmanuel, God with us.