



Will & Dorothy Rogers

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Sheltering (in Him) in Montana

March 26, 2020

If I was to write a book about our 40 years of ministry, its theme would be, *'In the midst of intense struggle, God's loving provision always shines through'*. COVID-19 would form a new unfinished chapter, but the theme would be the same.

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind for us all. No sooner had the first few cases been confirmed in South Africa, and knowing that we only had a visa to stay in the country till mid-April, we sought God's will with earnest prayer. God led us to change our ticket home (just getting through to Delta Airlines that weekend was a 'miracle' in itself). The soonest we could get a flight out was March 25th and the cost of our ticket change was \$1,200. As the time approached, that was a small price to pay to be able to get out of South Africa.

In the end, we were one of the last flights to get out. Since that time the country has gone into one of the most severe lockdowns in the world, being strictly enforced by police and military.

Shortly before leaving, Dorothy injured her shoulder and the nerve in her right arm is extremely painful. You can imagine the prospects of sitting in an airline seat for over 20 hours. You can also imagine the relief and wonder we felt when one of the very few empty seats on an oversold flight happened to be right between the two of us! Such a tender, compassionate God we serve!

We were supposed to return to Tacoma where my mother lives, but we could not quarantine there, obviously, and well, it didn't make a lot of sense to head to 'ground-zero'. At Atlanta, however, Delta changed our ticket and routed us to Helena, MT where our home church, Friendship Baptist Church, is located. They had a home waiting for us whose occupant is wintering in Arizona. It is an amazing place to self-isolate in. Such a generous God we serve!

Delta also returned our \$1,200. We barely qualified according to their policy. If we would have changed our ticket one day before we would have lost out. We tried to change it the day before but, much to our chagrin, the power went out. Thank God for that little inconvenience! What a patient and wise God we serve!

It has been a time of great distress for us all. That has described many of the chapters of our lives. But that has never been the real story. Our weakness and distress have always only been the beginning. Every chapter has closed with the nearness of Jesus. This present chapter is about Him and His care for us.

Praying for you,

Will & Dorothy Rogers