

Thank you for the prayers! God has been so good to us, times like this show what a great blessing we have in Him. Love you all!

I haven't begun to wrap my head around to the full scope of the damage and needs in the country as of yet. There will certainly be some great needs. Right now we are looking after our church families and communities and trying to get contact reestablished there. From there we'll move to other needs. Church services will be tomorrow as normal(ish) for us. What better time to lift up our Lord and Savior than through the toughest of times. His grace is more than sufficient.

I don't know how long our internet connection will last so I'm going to copy over our last updates. Hopefully I can get it to you before things disconnect again.

Update 1

Please pray for Vanuatu. The damage has been quite severe and I hear and feel aftershocks while writing this.

Ari and I are safe. Steve and Lynn Spore both need your prayers though. Lynn has dislocated a shoulder and possibly broken it. She also has broken a leg. Steve has fractured\broken his wrist as well. Medical care is severely limited at the moment since large portions of the hospital have collapsed or been evacuated.

We are still trying to get in touch with all of our church families, but so far those we've reached are safe. Pray for the medical teams flying in and for the treatment needed for Lynn especially. The church and school buildings, as well as our houses, seem to be sound at first look. There will be a huge amount of work digging through things as nearly everything in shelves (including the shelves) is in a pile of the floor. We are uncertain the damage taken there.

Our biggest need and request is prayers for Steve and Lynn and those injured in this quake.

Pray for wisdom in ministering to those in need through this time.

Update 2

Small update while internet lasts:

Thank you for keeping us and Vanuatu in prayer, you'll likely know more about whats going on in Vanuatu than we do on a national front. Our news is very limited and filled with rumors.

Currently my work and focus is on individuals only and God has opened some amazing doors to witness through the hospital and our families. The church has come together and has been amazing in reaching out to those in need. God has truly blessed us with people with a servants heart.

The Spores have been evacuated to New Zealand and are getting good care there for Steve's broken wrist and Lynn's broken hip and leg as well as her broken arm. Please continue to pray for them as they

have multiple surgeries coming up over the next few weeks. Ari and I are ok, healthy, uninjured, and safe.

We have water sometimes and power now. The rest of our services will eventually come back in time. Cleanup will continue for the next few months and repairs will go well into next year. The two walls that were at risk at our house have been demolished and sealed off with plastic and shade cloth for now. Right now very few services are open. No hardware or other places for supplies are open yet. Downtown is blocked off and will be for the foreseeable future as many buildings have fallen and recovery of those injured or killed in the collapses continue. I have had some great opportunities to pray with many families and share the gospel through the hospital already, and I'm sure many other opportunities will come. Pray for a man named Allen who is currently recovering from having shattered his left leg after having fallen from a building under construction.

Please continue to pray for us, our church families, and our country. The true impact and needs will grow and be evident as things slowly begin to reconnect. I will update when I can, but internet is going to be off and on for the foreseeable future.

Right now we have power, mostly. Water very occasionally. Internet...well this is the first that lasted more than a minute or two.

We are safe, tired, but safe. Very little damage was done to our church and school buildings. Most importantly all of our members and families are safe. God has been good to us. Pray for the Spores, Lynn just went into surgery and will be there for the next 3-6 hours. With her recent heart attack she needs our prayers.

I'm going to send this off now. I know Facebook is not always the best for news, but they are trying to restore access there before any regular internet access. I'll keep our page updated there first for that reason.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hirtzels2Vanuatu>

In Christ,
Jim and Ari