

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

January 7, 2021

My dear Friends:

I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. Already the turning of the calendar has reminded us the times may have changed, but that doesn't mean our troubles have gone away. We don't need to look far for examples. We've worshipped in our homes the past two weeks and we will do so for at least the next two weeks; and we feel the difficulty of this never-ending struggle with this plague, this coronavirus. And then, the hard and difficult scenes from our nation's Capitol on Wednesday reminded us that violence continues to pervade our society and is viewed by some as a solution to our problems.

I've spent a lot of time in the Psalms this past year—they are more real and alive to me than ever before because of all that has transpired. Psalm 124 has been especially sweet: “If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—if it had not been the Lord who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us” (Psalm 124:1-3). Remember—the Lord is on our side. Not in terms of politics or culture or even our health, but as those who have been blood-bought by Jesus, this world and its powers can never condemn us. The Lord is for us; his verdict, the one which counts.

Not only is the Psalms' reminder of the Lord's presence an encouragement, but the Lord's provision is as well. I'm grateful to let you know that through your generosity and the Lord's provision, we received over \$1.35 million in December, which was more than our target for the month. This provision will allow us to navigate the rest of this fiscal year, presuming our regular support.

We do have so much we would like to do once we are able to do it. We plan to have Andrew Peterson in concert here at IPC for Easter Eve 2021; we are excited about our new venue for Camp Palmer this year and would love to start registering folks for that; and we are looking forward to our August 2021 Christian Life Conference on “Knowing God: The Doctrine of God for the Christian Life.” We are trusting the Lord who is present with us and has provided for us will allow us to regather and move forward as his own people!

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean".