

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

October 10, 2018

My dear Friends:

Thanks for your prayers for me when I was away last week. I want you to be aware both of how I schedule these types of events, but also what I did so that you might know and pray for me in these continuing endeavors on our behalf. In terms of what I did: the first part of last week, I was with Ed Norton at the annual meeting of the UK Partnership. For those who aren't aware, five or six years ago, several PCA churches started to work together with leaders from the Free Church of Scotland, the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, the International Presbyterian Church, and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales—this became the UK Partnership. Central to this partnership is the desire to catalyze church planting in the United Kingdom, both through meeting together and financial support.

By any measure, the partnership has been a resounding success. Over the past five years, US churches have given over \$1 million for church planting and leadership development in the United Kingdom. And in places like Manchester and Birmingham, England, as well as in Scotland, scores of churches have been planted and leaders are being developed. For example, our friends in the Free Church hope to plant 30 churches by 2030—to put that in context, if they reach that goal, it would increase the number of congregations in their denomination over 30%.

So, it was really good for me to see and hear, to make connections with those leaders—especially Neil MacMillan, who is planting Cornerstone Church in Edinburgh and is an amazing and thoughtful leader, and to think through our own investment in this partnership going forward. I left rejoicing in Ed Norton's leadership as the volunteer coordinator of the partnership and in what God is doing in the United Kingdom through IPC and others. You'll hear much more about the UK Partnership in February 2019 during our missions conference.

From there, I went on to New York City, where I taught for RTS NYC on Friday and Saturday. This semester, I'm teaching 20 or so students who are working on master's degrees through Reformed Theological Seminary's New York City campus—their program is in partnership with Redeemer City to City. This is a pretty remarkable group both in terms of diversity and ability, and it is a privilege to teach them. This semester, I'm doing *History of Christianity I* with them, which is fun; most Tuesday nights, we connect through videoconferencing, but this past weekend, I was face-to-face for nine hours, which is a much better teaching format. And so, it worked out for Sara to meet me in New York and we spent the time that I wasn't obligated tromping through the boroughs (we walked 46 miles over four days!).

Of course, it is good to be back home in Memphis with our feet on the ground here. But there is a philosophy behind what I try to do when I'm away. I very much think in terms of how to leverage these relationships I have to advance our mission here at IPC. I'm not away much doing other things—this church and this ministry are my first love and responsibility. But when I am away, it is to extend your influence in ways that allow us collectively to participate in what God is doing in our country and around the world. There're other pieces to this, in terms of scheduling—but the main thing you should know is that I only do these kinds of things to advance our shared ministry. As Sara can tell you, I'm such a homebody that if I had my way, I'd never go anywhere.

That's why I'm looking forward to this Lord's Day—to be together with you in God's presence as he takes his Word by his Spirit and makes us new people for a new Memphis. May God do this for his glory!

In the grip of God's grace,



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