

Hit the “Send” Button on Your Insider Trading Reflections: A Lay Leader’s Perspective

Greetings, Aldersgate Family!

Never before has this trite old saying been so true: *We’re all in the same boat!* Our daily lives are so prescribed now and as a person who prizes flexibility, I find the shelter in place strictures rather chafing. Do you?

Maybe that’s why I have chosen to study the book of Acts in my daily quiet time lately — because it reads like a travelogue for much of the time. As you recall, Acts follows the Apostle Paul’s travels as he takes the Good News from Antioch to Cyprus and into Asia Minor. Of course, it also deals with his eventual imprisonment, simply because the Jews didn’t like his message.

Paul’s fervor to share Christ with all he could physically reach is amazing to me. Here’s a man who initially persecuted Christians, but later his zeal to reach the unsaved reaps great success. I would dare to say his efforts are unmatched in all of history. In the Old Testament I think of Isaiah, who heard God ask: “*Whom shall I send? And who shall go for us?*” And Isaiah responds, “*Here I am. Send me!*” (Isaiah 6: 8).

Fast forward to today and here we are sequestered in our homes. Our enthusiasm to raise our hands and echo Isaiah with a rousing, “*Here, I am. Send me!*” is certainly dampened by the threat of COVID-19. Any Paul-like mission trip we might have planned is most certainly on hold. Or is it? We live in a different time than Isaiah and Paul. We don’t have to get on a ship and sail to a faraway land to share the Good News. We have resources like YouTube, FaceTime, Zoom, Facebook, Twitter, email, and, yes, the good old-fashioned U.S. Postal Service.

Recently, Pastor Lee gave us all an opportunity to participate in a reflective exercise called “Insider Trading” in an effort to keep us connected with each other. He asked one question that I found quite probing: *Where have you seen God at work, or how have you grown spiritually?* I look forward to reading all your answers. But I also want to ask you: Have you thought of sharing your Insider Trading lessons with the outside world too? How our faith has sustained us during this time may prove to be uplifting to others, especially people whom we hold dear, but who have chosen to stay outside His inner circle of love. Maybe “*Here I am. Send me!*” looks a little different right now. But the opportunities are still there.