

Evangelisch-Reformierte Baptistengemeinde Frankfurt
Frankfurt Evangelical Reformed Baptist Church



To: The Saints of GraceLife Church of Edmonton

February 27th, 2021

Beloved elders, deacons, and members of GraceLife Church of Edmonton: grace to you, and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ!

We, the Evangelical Reformed Baptist Church of Frankfurt, Germany, have heard of the special trials that you, and especially your Pastor James Coates and his family, have been caused to undergo for the sake of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank our God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world - and we are greatly encouraged and comforted by it.

It is evident that our Heavenly Father is putting His church, worldwide, through the furnace to burn away the dross and to bring forth something more glorious and more worthy of the title "the bride, the wife of the Lamb." Truly, the sifting process is painful but how else is the wheat to be separated from the chaff?

We readily acknowledge that, according to God's will, we have not yet been called to experience the degree of testing that you have been called to. Nevertheless, it is with both heart-felt sympathy and a sense of vested interest that we observe how you stand in this time, knowing that it may not be long before we, and many other faithful gatherings of the saints, face similarly pressing circumstances. May it be so that you can join in the following words of the Apostle Paul:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.



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We commit ourselves to regular mentioning of you before the throne of grace and rejoice that we have the aid of our great High Priest in praying that your faith will not fail. In the world we will have tribulation. But take heart; Jesus Christ has overcome the world! What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For we are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May our gracious Lord continue to strengthen you so that you to stand firm and are not ashamed of Christ and His words in this adulterous and sinful generation. May He grant you self-denial, readiness to take up the cross, and conformity to the pattern of a suffering Savior, which are absolutely required of every follower of Jesus: nor must we count our lives dear to us, when His service requires us to part with them. Not that our sufferings, or even death itself, will be our loss; no: they will prove our greatest gain, and we shall find in life eternal an abundant recompense: whereas, if through fear or dread of suffering in this world, we save our lives by base compliances, our loss will be irreparable and eternal; we shall perish without remedy; and the gain of ten thousand worlds will never countervail the loss of an immortal soul: and as sure as ever we are ashamed of the cause of Jesus, and disown Him by our unfaithfulness, so surely may we expect to be disowned by Him in the great day of His appearing and glory: let us therefore count the cost, and with full purpose of heart cleave unto the Lord.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

If possible, please extend our love to pastor James and his family and remind them of Jesus' promise: *Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.*

We beg you earnestly to let us know if you are lacking anything, so we may be granted the grace of taking part in the relief of the saints. We pray that the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

On behalf of the saints of Frankfurt Evangelical Reformed Baptist Church - the pastors:



Tobias Riemenschneider



Peter Schild