Formation Workshop

**Leader:** Joyce and David Reed

**Date**: Monday, September 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

**Title:** *Can Prayer be Silent?: Spiritual Disciplines in uncertain times*

**Purpose:**

Invite participants to listening as a spiritual discipline of prayer

**Goals:**

1. Essential teaching on spiritual disciplines and prayer as a discipline
2. Present silence and solitude as most noted spiritual disciplines practiced by Jesus
3. Discussion on role of spiritual disciplines as tools for increasing trust, self-regulation and grounding in uncertainties of our days

**Description**

Jay Matenga in an article for World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) wrote, ‘…between April and August it feels like we have travelled for an eternity but gone nowhere. Between the lock-downs and online forums, civil unrest and worsening poverty, increased vulnerability and decreased access, political divisions and accelerating infections, missionaries and ministers of the gospel can be forgiven for feeling emotionally and spiritually, if not also physically, exhausted.” **(**<https://weamc.global/lb2020-2/>)

We are past the initial shock of Covid-19 and are now navigating weariness, isolation, grief, and a long term roller coaster ride of stressors. Many, including the forums of the WEA, are saying that the world is not going to return to pre-covid norms. In all this chaotic sea of uncertainty with far more questions than answers, and in the face of all that is shifting and becoming unfamiliar how do we find and stand on our solid center in Christ? For centuries the spiritual disciplines have helped countless followers of Jesus in times not unlike ours. Especially two forgotten yet critical practices: Silence and Solitude. Gather with us as we explore how listening can become deep soul prayer.

**Biography** Joyce and David Reed

From 1999-2015 Joyce and David Reed served with International Ministries as Global Servants in La Paz, Baja Sur, Mexico. Their work centered around new church development, pastoring a local church, and theological education. In 2015 they moved to a regional ministry in Ibero America and the Caribbean teaching spiritual formation. They were adjunct professors in an accredited online Masters of Theological Studies program that is a partnership with IM and Palmer Seminary. Then, God connected the threads of growth and passion and in August of 2019 began a new mission as Global Coordinators of Spiritual Care. They provide spiritual companionship, care, and resources for IM global servants as they work and live with cross cultural stresses. Covid-19 pushed their mission ahead full steam as they work to encourage and enable global servants to deal with the myriad of changes.

**Workshop Host:** James Conley

**Zoom Proctor:** Mike Oldham