

Monthly Support Report

March 31, 2020

Dear elders,

Greetings. It's my sincere hope and prayer that everyone is doing well. As I write those words today, while I truly mean them every month, this month they seem to have a little more meaning. Or, at least a little different meaning considering what's going on in the world around us. Never in my lifetime would I have ever imagined that I would see a day like the world we're living in today. Having said that, it's a difficult time to say the least. You know as well as I that we have many difficult days ahead of us. It's my prayer for all of you that God will bless you with safety and good health.

We're doing our best to make the best out of a difficult situation for the congregation. Due to the restrictions and for the health of the congregation we have canceled worship services until further notice. Having said that, I'm attempting to be as creative as I possibly can to keep in touch with all of the members, and supply them with sermons, and teaching. I'll continue to do this and improve on this as time goes on.

We also now have our own Church Family Page on Facebook that serves as our News and Notes, and our Prayer List. We update this daily if we need to in order to keep everyone informed, and to make sure that everyone has all of the supplies that they need. While it's a new concept for us, thus far it's working out fantastic, and the communication has been nothing short of excellent.

I'm also back to writing more than I've written in a long time on a variety of subjects. Many of you may not know, but years ago I had my own Newspaper Column in a local newspaper called Home and Family. I wrote for approximately seven-years. Recently I decided to revisit some of those articles from the newspaper and see what I could do to rework them. So, I'm back to writing my Home and Family column, and in addition I'm doing some other writing for the congregation, and making it possible for them to send these to their friends. The reception has been positive thus far. And with everyone having so much extra time on their hands, it appears as though quite a few of their friends are enjoying the Home and Family column.

I'll continue to put on my thinking cap and consider what I can do for the edification for the family of Christians here. While we might not be able to assemble for the time being, we can make the most of this time to keep up with our studies and even take on some additional studies. That's the requests I'm getting from individuals. So, it looks like I'm going to be busier than ever. It will just be in other ways. Very enjoyable ways I might add.

I'm very curious to know what things you are doing during this time for the edification of the church there where you are. We still have a few of our members who are working outside of the home and possibly exposed to COVID-19. Two of our members are nurses which at least put them out there in the arena of possibly being exposed. To the best of their knowledge they haven't been exposed (thankfully). But, the threat always there. Another one of our members works for Office Max which is considered to be one of those businesses that needs to keep their doors open for business. One of his co-workers was thought to have COVID-19, and was tested. Which would have meant that he, his family of 4, and 7 of

our other members would have been exposed. Thankfully his co-worker's test came back negative. So, we have had a close call or two. This was a couple of weeks ago when we were still meeting and having Wednesday night Bible Studies.

Now, while that's positive news. Let me close with the reaction of the members to what we have going on. First, the members are saying that they can't wait to be able to assemble with everyone again. As time goes on, it's my opinion that the sincere need to assemble will grow and grow much more. Isn't it wonderful how we might (and I want emphasize "might"), how we might take assembling together for Bible Study and worship for granted, and then when it's taken away from us, we realize how wonderful it was? And how we can't wait to be able to get back together with our brethren and sing songs of praise to God. Won't that be wonderful? I already have young men calling and emailing me about possible Lord's Supper lesson ideas that they're working on. That's pretty exciting. They miss it and so do I. I miss their effort and how much they've improved and how hard they're working to improve. And now I'm seeing how much they want to continue to improve. That's very rewarding.

And when I write an article for everyone to read, while the group is nice enough to compliment me on the article, they're also picking out something that stood out to them and commenting on it. And sometimes they ask a question, that turns into a mini Bible Study. This demonstrates their hunger for the word. I like seeing their hunger.

Having said all that I've said, it is so easy to see God's wisdom in having us assemble together isn't it? There's so much that I miss about it, and I can't wait until the day when this Covid-19 virus has passed, and we can safely go back to assembling together as God's family to worship. There will likely be tears of joy and happiness as we praise God together in his house just the way He would have it.

Thank you for your help. As per usual it is greatly appreciated and needed now more than ever. God bless all of you. You are all in my prayers. Stay safe.

Randy