

Spring 2020

Dear Pastor and Supporting Church,

It is hard to know where and how to begin this letter as the world is all struggling to cope with all that has befallen us in the last few months. Our state was the first to order the shelter-in-place orders that most other states soon instituted. We seem to be on track to be one of the last to keep these orders in place which has greatly restricted our ability to function and minister as a church. We rejoice that we are beginning to see hope on the horizon that will afford us more flexibility in our ministry.

I was still recovering from my fall when this pandemic hit our country. I believe I was more injured than first thought, because my soreness lasted almost 12 weeks, and I am still having some lingering issues that are connected to my concussion. Just as I was healthy enough to begin resuming preaching the shelter-in-place orders were issued from our governor. Since that time, we have been operating with a small

group for our online services.

In addition to streaming all of our regular services, we began sending out to all who wanted them, a set of weekly devotional Bible studies. We also began meeting together online a couple of times a week to go over these lessons and read and teach the Scriptures. This has not only been a lifeline for many in our church, but actually has been used to help grow people spiritually. Outreach has not discontinued either as we have had the opportunity to share the gospel with one of our member's mother who received Christ over the phone. Another lady we recently spoke with over the phone was desiring to rededicate her life to Christ and is looking forward to attending our services once we are able to resume meeting in person.

As I mentioned we see hope on the horizon as it has become increasingly clear that our local county and city leaders are not supportive of the governor's continued lockdown. Our sheriff, just this past weekend, released a very bold and courageous statement that he will not enforce the governor's orders anymore because they are based on what "might" happen and not what is happening. This is quite a change because our sheriff made national headlines by citing and shutting down a church service that was being held on Easter Sunday. As such, we are making plans to safely reopen our church in the coming weeks regardless of the governor's orders. Please pray that everything will go well for us as we do so.

On a family note, life has been very bittersweet. Bryson does not love academics, but he fought and struggled and finished his course at PCC. We were so looking forward to watching him graduate and celebrating his achievement with him. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Brandon is also set to graduate from high school and we always honor our public school and homeschool students at our church. This also is not going to happen right now. We are so proud of our sons. They have been a help to us in our ministry, but now are about to leave our home. Bryson is going to start a staff job at PCC in June and Brandon is getting a start on settling in there as well by working this summer on campus before starting classes in the fall. Please pray for them and their parents as we transition to a new phase in our lives.

In Christ,

Cuthon D. Dass

Andy Doss

