



May 2020

The Cornerstone

I Peter 2:6

Growing God's Kingdom Associationally

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MISSIONARY

The last month or two has been quite a surreal experience. On one hand, it seems we have returned to the past, which is not a bad thing. We are staying at home more and enjoying family. Parents and some grandparents are spending more time teaching their children instead of relying solely on the school to do it. I remember my first “church” experience 60 years ago. It was at a drive-in theatre, not unlike what some of you are doing at your church. Then again, we are also stepping out into the future! I offer hearty congratulations to all you pastors who've diligently sought ways to worship God and care for your church family even though we are quarantined. Drive-in and Facebook Live worship services are abounding. You report that many more souls are worshipping, online, than you ever have in your sanctuary! Praise God! Some of you have even designed ways for your church family to continue supporting the church, be it through electronic giving or curbside donation boxes. Yet, for sure, we all are looking forward to the time when our church families can gather once again, praise and pray together, and even experience those holy hugs the Bible talks about. I've been missing them, haven't you? While we realize we can worship God without a building... we love the assembling of the saints, don't we! I don't know that we will ever return to what we had before anytime soon. I do believe that, no matter the circumstances and conditions, the mission of the Church must go forward! We can allow nothing to stop or distract that mission. While we may have to adjust or even change our methods, we never, ever let the Gospel message go unproclaimed. It's just too fabulous to be muted. It is exactly this message that our world, nation and community need to hear—the message of hope, joy and encouragement. Let us be praying and listening for that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the new future from here. I am filled with great anticipation as to what God has for His church, next!

Ron



³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 New King

Sacks of LOVE

CURRENT STATUS

Sacks of Love is serving approximately 400 food-insecure students in 20 schools in the Kershaw County School District. They have few options for meals on weekends and holidays. Through this ministry, children have been provided sacks filled with nutritious food on weekends and holidays.

When schools closed their doors, creative ways were found to continue serving these students. Churches have had some success in getting the sacks to the children, through delivery on the school buses that were already delivering the Monday-Friday breakfasts and lunches. Others are delivered by principals, teachers and counselors, or picked up at various locations.

WE HOPE TO JOIN WITH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND PROVIDE SACKS OF LOVE TO HUNGRY CHILDREN THROUGH THE SUMMER MONTHS

Now, summer is around the corner, and even e-learning school will be over. With the current stay-at-home order and job situations being affected, there are heart-breaking conditions for some of our Sacks of Love students. These families, already being stretched to the limit financially before COVID19, are watching their situations become more desperate. They have to decide whether to pay their mortgage, buy food or medicine. What an opportunity for the churches to show God's love in an amazing way while ministering to a community in need!

HERE'S WHAT IS NEEDED

- 1) **Churches/church members –Your help is needed in providing sacks to these hungry children through the months of June, July and August.** Some of our churches have been supporting this effort faithfully the entire school year, and others are needed to join in the blessing . . . This is a mission outreach a church can do even when we are socially distant. In some cases, one church can handle one school. In other cases, 2 or 3 churches may go together for one school. If enough join in, no church will need to do all three months.
- 2) Churches will be responsible for purchasing the food and packing the sacks. Milk may be picked up from the Kershaw Baptist Association, free to the churches.
- 3) The number of students being served is different for each school. We will work out the numbers that your church can handle. The cost of one sack depends on the items you include, but should be able to stay in the \$6.00—6.50 range, possibly less. A list of food approved by the Kershaw County School District dietitian will be given to you.
- 4) Monetary donations are also needed. You may send donations to Kershaw Baptist Association, 14 East DeKalb Street, Camden, SC 29020, and earmark your check "Sacks of Love."



*Remember, difficult circumstances are the platform
on which God reveals His supernatural activity.*

Don't miss this opportunity to allow God to demonstrate His power to provide.

Quote from Morris Chapman, 1990-92 President, SBC

Missions—Local



NEWS ABOUT OUR GOOD NEWS CLUBS!... while school is not meeting again this school year, it will begin anew in August! Let's continue to lean forward, pray hard and plan on doing some sort of Good News Club in our elementary schools. As conditions al-

low, we will provide training this summer. Let us allow nothing, including COVID19, from claiming our children for Jesus!

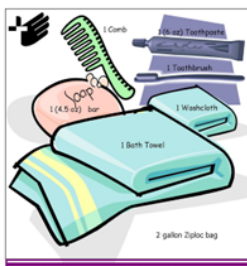


BIANNUAL (SPRING) MEETING... is tentatively planned for July, depending on circumstances. If we cannot meet, corporately, we will plan a digital meeting.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL?... while we may not be able to gather in large groups this summer, let us be prayerfully thoughtful about getting God's Word to our children! Will small groups be possible? How about larger groups who are socially distanced?

Then again, there is Facebook Live and other electronic options.



HEALTH KITS...

A tangible way to meet the physical needs of those in your community is through health kits. Place the following items in a 2-gallon zip lock type bag:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1 toothbrush | 1 washcloth | 1 comb |
| 1 toothpaste (6 oz.) | 1 bath towel | 1 soap (4.5 oz. bath size) |

The KBA will accept the kits when it is safe to receive and distribute them.

Pastors/Staff/Family Care

PASTORS CONFERENCE AND BETTER HALVES MEETINGS... while we all hope to be meeting together again soon, we are waiting to see how things develop before we start. We will stay in touch and let you know when the doors of fellowship open, again.

COUNSELING/REFRESHING RESOURCES...

Palmetto Counseling Associates—
Dr. Nic Natale, Columbia, SC, 803-254-9767

Celebrate Recovery—Jimmy Braddock, Christ-centered recovery program, Camden, SC, 369-4365

Teen Challenge—Rev. Wayne Powell, Georgetown, SC, 843-520-4888

The Good Samaritan Colony—Rehab from addiction to drugs and alcohol, Ruby, SC, 843-634-6848

Shade Tree Ministry—refreshing for ministry leaders and their spouses, www.shadetreeministry.org

Wateree Pregnancy Network—803-804-1567

Camp McCall Retreat House—
Phillip "Snoball" Jewell, 864-884-6926

AROUND THE ASSOCIATION...

Sean McElrath has resigned as Associate Pastor of Education and Student Ministries with **Springvale Church**, to accept God's call to serve as pastor of First Baptist Church, North, SC.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays:

- 06 Amy Hopkins, Hermitage
- 08 Steve Sanderson, Calvary
- 14 Jenny Corder, Hillcrest
- 18 Everett Reconnu, Southside
- 18 Don Coppedge, retired
- 19 Ken Jackson, Hillcrest
- 24 Lanny Brisendine, retired
- 24 Todd Gandy, Providence
- 24 Sandy Ridley, Freedom Outreach
- 25 Robbie Shivar, Sand Hill Heights
- 27 Jan Whitfield, retired
- 30 Ann Brisendine, retired
- 31 Fran Stokes, retired

May Wedding Anniversaries:

- 15 Steve and Diane Lee, Mt. Olivet

May Church Anniversaries:

- 03 Mike Pelham, Lake Wateree
- 13 Craig Thompson, Malvern Hill
- 15 Bryan Plyler, River



Missions—National

MISSION CENTER STAFF

Associational Missionary .Ron Underwood
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SUMMER MISSIONS IN MYRTLE

BEACH... while we wait for this virus thing to pass, the Great Commission does not go away; God's Word stands forever! **Let us be leaning forward as churches during this down time and pray, if not prepare, to go to Myrtle**

Beach on mission this summer. Many lost and undecided will be there, reeling from the events of these difficult days and much more open to hearing God's Word. Contact Ron for more information.

MISSIONS, HERE OR THERE!...though your church may not be able to go on mission this summer, what can you do, locally? Let us all be alert and aware of opportunities, new and old, to advance the Gospel. While we pray about our options in these challenging days, one of them is not to do nothing. How is God's Spirit leading your church?

VISION TRIPS... led by the South Carolina Baptist Convention, are still being planned at this time. Two are being planned for Alaska. The dates are July 10-17 and September 26-October 1. The cost for Alaska is the flight plus \$400.

KERSHAW BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

14 East DeKalb Street
Camden, South Carolina 29020
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

PAID

Permit No. 32

To:

Missions—International

OUR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE... realizes that, at the present time, mission trips to Cuba are very difficult due to travel restrictions. Pray for Cuba as they suffer through the virus. Pray for the church in Cuba as they endure increased oppression these days.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED...

Cassatt Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth minister to perform duties related to the growth and development of the youth of the church and community. Contact Personnel Committee, 803-427-9306, send a current resumé to Cassatt Baptist Church, P O Box 110, Cassatt, SC 29032, or email it to cassatt bc@gmail.com.

**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**



May 7, 2020

Be on the alert for a possible live stream at noon.

“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” 2 Chronicles 7:14.



THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF RE-OPENING CHURCH!

While the country discusses how to re-enter into businesses and other public spaces, Dr. Larry Anderson points to ten "areas" churches should consider before opening their churches again.

#1: Thou Shall Not Touch

We know we can't hug and shake hands anymore, for now, but how do we now:

Serve Communion?

Perform baptism?

Collect offering?

#2: Thou Shall Not Huddle

We know we have to practice social distancing, but how do we now:

Have café time?

Greet members and visitors?

Have classes?

Have the choir sing?



#3: Thou Shall Be My Witnesses

"In Jerusalem in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" ... but how do we now:

Continue the online ministry to those who cannot attend in person?

Increase bandwidth in your building to support a streaming service?

Use the online Zoom and webinars for small group and other discipleship classes?

#4: Thou Shall Dress Appropriately

But what does that mean now?

Are we asking members to wear gloves and masks to worship?

Are we prepared to supply those who attend with the proper PPE to enjoy services?

#5: Thou Shall Not Put the Lord Your God to the Test

But how do we now:

Ask seniors and those with immune deficiency to stay home, at least initially, for their safety?

Ask those who are most at risk in their daily lives to the virus to stay home for others' safety?

Keep all gatherings, besides worship, as out-of-church digital gatherings?



THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF RE-OPENING CHURCH!

#6: Thou Shall Increase Thy Territory

But how do we do that with social distancing?

Do we start additional services to continue social distancing?

Do we remove chairs or skip pews to continue social distancing?

Do we space chairs out and only allow same households to sit together?

Do we place marks throughout the sanctuary to relegate spacing in the building?

#7: Thou Shall Bring All the Tithes into the Store-house

But do we have to do that in person?

Can we use digital giving through websites, tithe.ly or other non-money transferring processes?

For non-digital givers, can we suggest checks as the first option, which touch less hands, then cash?

Can we prepare for a leaner budget based on unemployment and the slow return of members?

Great
are the
works
of the
Lord.

#8: Thou Shall Not Hinder the Little Children from Coming to the Lord

But how do we do children's ministry in this new environment?

Can you monitor a child's social distancing and safety and is it wise to have in-person classes?

Should you keep children's classes online since children typically are the first to ignore guidelines?

Are you prepared to not pass out items to children, or through children, and ask them to bring their own writing materials and workbooks, or only do classes with verbal interactions?

#9: Thou Shall Cleanse Thyself of all Uncleanliness

What will we do to ensure safe, sanitary practices?

Will we establish sanitation stations throughout the church?

Will we establish "no-touch" options, including faucets and towel dispensers, in restrooms?

Will we establish motion-detecting lights and doors, where possible?

Will we keep doors open, where possible?

Will we equip and empower a disinfecting team and routine to fully sanitize the building between services?

#10: Thy House Must Be a House of Prayer

We can do all we can but we must totally surrender our will to the Lord.

Only open the building when you have discerned God's voice (and wisdom) for safe return.