



SHADOW MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 31, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Shadow Mountain,

As we leave the month of March and enter into the month of April, I write this, my third epistle to all of you. (I have not been able to keep myself from wondering if this is what Paul did for his churches...and we have some of those letters that he wrote.) I am absolutely certain that these letters will not be published, but as with Paul, they represent my heart toward all of you.

Here is what the great apostle wrote to His friends in Philippi. He was in prison when he sent these words:

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine, making request for you all with joy...just as it is right for me to have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. Philippians 1:3-7

Many things are happening in our hearts. The one thing that keeps floating to the top on my list is the special privilege I have of being the pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church. Times of difficulty and trial reveal who we really are, and brothers and sisters, you are the real deal! It is a magnificent blessing to watch God working through all of you during these challenging days.

Let me begin with the best news I have received since our last letter. Last weekend, we had 52 people, who watched our online services, respond to my invitation to receive Jesus Christ. More reports will trickle in over the week, but these are people who actually communicated with our counselors and received information to help them get started in their walk with the Lord.

Several thousand people are watching our online services each week, and the number is growing. Here is something I would like to suggest to all of you: Why not take this opportunity to get in touch with all of your social media friends and invite them to join you in church this weekend? This is a great opportunity, and we must not miss it.

Here is what is happening with our small groups. Nearly 100 groups have converted to electronic communication, and that means over 1,000 of our people had a small group experience online. We are finding ways to stay close as we fight this virus. If you have never done anything much online, this is a good time to talk with one another and learn how to use this incredible tool for the glory of God.

Let me get you caught up on how we are doing financially. Remember, our goal is to care for the people who represent us on the mission field (190 individuals and families), and to make sure our 500 plus ministry staff in all of our churches are cared for during this time. I am totally committed to seeing us through this pandemic with everyone still part of this team.

We started out a bit slow because we did not have any system in place, and in the early days of March we fell behind. But every week since, we have gotten better, and this last week was truly amazing. 751 people or families gave online; 307 sent in their tithes and offerings through the mail; and 79 dropped off their giving at the church. The result of all of that is this: On the last Sunday of the month, Shadow Mountain made its weekly budgeted giving. What a testimony to God's grace and to your faithfulness!

We still have several tough weeks ahead of us, including not being able to celebrate Easter in church...for the first time in our nation's history. But I want you all to know how encouraged you should be concerning your church and its members. We will look back on this as a time when we grew in our faith and in our love for God and each other.

Please continue to pray every day for one another, for our church, and for your pastor.

Before I sign this letter, I want to pass along a special little tip I have adopted during this time. I heard someone say that when you wash your hands you should wash them for 20 seconds and that you could sing "Happy Birthday" twice to time yourself. Well, I came up with a better idea. Wash your hands for 28 seconds and sing "Jesus Loves Me" to yourself, or out loud, if you dare. Your hands will be cleaner, and your heart will be reminded of the greatest truth of all. He does love you, and so do I.

Love from your Pastor,



David Jeremiah
Senior Pastor