



SHADOW MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 7, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Shadow Mountain,

Happy Easter to all of you. Historians are telling us that this will be the first Easter in the history of our nation when people will not be allowed to attend church to **celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ**. None of us ever imagined that anything like this could happen in our lifetime. But here we are, and we are **preparing for a glorious celebration online**.

Our musicians are all fired up to present the music of Easter to our expanded congregation. **Michael Sanchez** will be singing with a **virtual choir** that has been assembled and will be on the screens, **Uriel Vega** will be on the platform to play **“Because He Lives,”** and our **entire choir will be singing with a full orchestra**. We will have to import them into the service from a past celebration, but we are ready to do that, and it will seem like they are in the building with the few of us who will actually be there. Finally, **The Pacific Sound Brass** will be presenting their magnificent music that thrills us every Christmas and Easter. We are trying to make this as close as possible to the Easters we have enjoyed in the past. We are going to do our very best, and we pray we never have to do it this way again.

There could not be a better message to preach at this time of despair for so many people than the message of the **risen Christ!** The emotion of that first Easter weekend was very similar to what we are experiencing right now. On Friday, it seemed as if all hope was gone. Jesus had died, and He had been buried. The disciples and loved ones of Jesus were filled with the same kind of despair and hopelessness that many are feeling during this crisis. But in the words of a preacher I once heard, **“It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!”** When Jesus came out of the tomb on that first Sunday, hope was set free, and darkness turned to light. We are in the Friday-to-Saturday mode right now...but Sunday is coming!

Now for a look back at last weekend. **What God did last weekend, I have never been a part of in almost fifty years of ministry.** On Saturday night, we had **4,700** viewers on the online platform, and Turning Point’s Facebook page had **10,200** viewers. On Sunday morning, we had **22,000** viewers for a weekend total of **36,900** people in our online services. BUT here is the really exciting news—at the end of our three online services, **131 people prayed to accept Christ**. Our evangelism team is following up with all of these people. God does not need a church building to bring people to Himself.

Now for a **major announcement** about an opportunity God has given us as a church **to give back** to our community and **help a lot of families** that need a touch from God at this very moment. One of the major problems facing many of our neighbors and friends is simply this, if there are no jobs, there is no money, and if there is no money, food is not obtainable. We want to fix that for **1,000 families on Good Friday**.

We have arranged with some former partners of ours at **Feed The Children** to bring two semi-trucks full of food and personal care items to our campus for distribution to **1,000 families who need our help** at this time. This is **non-perishable food** that is packed in a box and will help feed a family for one week. These boxes are packed in Oklahoma City and will be brought to our campus for our distribution. In addition to the box of food, every family who comes to our campus distribution center at the front of our Worship Center will also be given a **box of personal care items**, and a copy of my book, *God Loves You!* This will be our gift to every family that comes to Shadow Mountain on Good Friday.

We are not advertising this to the greater community because we believe that **the family of Shadow Mountain Community Church** will have more than enough **friends and neighbors** who need help that we will not need to go beyond that boundary. We would ask that you not advertise this, but that you take this opportunity to **personally invite anyone** you know who needs help to come to this outreach. Come with them if that will make a difference. It is our desire that this will be a way that we can show God's love at this time of need! If you are a member of our Shadow Mountain family, and you know someone who is elderly and who needs this food, but is not able to get out to get it, then **you should come and get in line, get the food, and take it to them.** Please pray that God will use this to draw people to Himself and to show them that they are loved by our congregation. (If you receive this letter after Friday, the good news is there will be another distribution next Friday, April 17 from noon to 3:00 p.m., or until supplies run out.)

The City of El Cajon and El Cajon Police department have approved this event, and this is how it will happen:

Between **noon and 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday**, a line of vehicles will form at the north entrance of our campus. As the **cars, trucks, or SUVs** move through the loading area, we will ask each driver to **pop their trunk or open their doors**, and two boxes, plus the book, will be placed inside. The vehicles will then be free to leave through the south exit. We cannot have personal contact with any of the occupants of the vehicles because of the importance of social distancing. All of **our workers** will have had a **health check** and will be wearing **masks and gloves** to protect them in this process.

This particular email announcement will be sent to all of our **Shadow Mountain** email list, all of the families on our **Christian School** email list, and to all of our **ethnic congregations** and **venue churches**. We are also inviting all of the families we minister to through our incredible **Prison Ministry**.

This is a huge undertaking, and I want to thank David St. John for his leadership and hard work to make all of this happen in a way that will bring glory to our Lord.

Please pray with me that many will be blessed and encouraged by this act of love from Shadow Mountain Community Church.

Love from your Pastor,



David Jeremiah
Senior Pastor

PS: There is never a better time than Easter to express your **gratitude to God** for His provision in your life than with your tithes and offerings. Thank you for **your incredible faithfulness**.