



SHADOW MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 14, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

I want to thank you for taking time to read this message each week. It has become a very important tool that God is using to keep us all together during these uncertain days. I want you to know that we are praying for you every day, and we are watching with awe at God's work in the life of our church and in your lives individually.

Last week was very difficult for all of us. Easter is the most important weekend of the entire year. It has always been the best-attended weekend, and I have only missed one other Easter in almost fifty years of ministry, and that was during my bout with cancer. To say that we missed being physically with all of you for that celebration is an understatement.

Donna and I got up early and were sitting on the couch together when our local TV program began at 7 AM. As you know, we capture each Easter service and produce it for viewing the following year. So, there we sat, watching our amazing choir and Tobin Davis and Michael Sanchez and Wes Hampton and a totally packed Worship Center. I will admit to wiping my eyes as I realized what we were missing. I can hear you saying AMEN to that.

But I had no way of knowing then what God had planned for the next few hours. We had come together on Saturday evening to present our Easter service, and although it felt awkward, we all sensed the presence of the Lord in that simple service. The ministry of our worship team and instrumentalists was anointed, and the virtual choir and Michael singing together was powerful. One of my good friends called me and told me that he and his wife were watching the service on Sunday morning, and when he looked over at his wife during that song, she was in tears. She said it was one of the most powerful moments she had ever experienced in worship. And she was right! Thank you to all of the people involved in that creative process...especially Tobin Davis and the audio crew led by Byron Mathe.

As the statistics for the weekend began to collect on Sunday afternoon, I was astonished. Here are the number of viewing sites that joined us for our three services at Shadow Mountain and on all of the social media platforms at Turning Point:

- Online Saturday night: 5,900
- Online Sunday 9:30 morning: 12,900
- Online Sunday 10:45 morning: 7,000
- On all Turning Point platforms: 19,400

Altogether, 45,200 viewing sites were connected to us for our weekend services. But the story is even better. Social media engineers tell us that on average each viewing site represents 2.3

viewers. Let's forget about the .3 and thank God for 90,400 viewers who celebrated Easter with Shadow Mountain Community Church.

As I prepared for my Easter message, I so wanted to make the gospel plain. I knew we would have many people watching just because there was nothing else for them to do. Perhaps God could use "sheltering" to help people find the ultimate Shelter! I told people at the beginning of my message that I would give them an opportunity to receive Christ at the end of the service, and as the service concluded, I actually led in a salvation prayer. I asked those who had prayed with me to receive Christ to click on the button that was on the screen for those who wished to accept Christ. The total number of those who indicated that they had prayed the sinner's prayer was 556. While we are not able to follow-up all of these decisions, we are connecting with those who gave us their information. We are being reminded that the Holy Spirit now lives in each of these people, and that He will guide and protect them.

As I talk to my ministry friends around the country, I am hearing so many stories of God at work during this pandemic. Some are suggesting that we may be in the beginning of a spiritual awakening in our nation. I know you are praying with me that this is true.

If you haven't seen the video of our food distribution on Good Friday, you need to go to our website and watch last weekend's service. We showed the video, and it tells the whole story. That video was shot by C. J. Kirwan and Luke Appelquist of Turning Point. It involved the use of a drone, and even though it is only one minute and 35 seconds long, it took them hours to produce. They stayed up most of Friday night to have it ready for our Saturday service. These guys are terrific!

We will be distributing food again on Friday, beginning at noon and going until the products run out. This week, because of the generosity of one of our donors, we bought 1,000 gallons of milk to put in each car with our boxes of food and essentials. Last Friday, I watched as people drove through our distribution lines, and these people are so without hope unless we reach out our hands to love them. David St. John and his team are helping us shout to the world that Shadow Mountain Cares!

And our care for our kids during this time could not be in better hands than those of Heidi Hensley. The Easter bags that she and her team presented to our kids on Saturday were so appreciated by our families. That was a huge task well done!

Because of your faithfulness in giving during these days, we are staying strong and loving people and focusing on ministry every day. So many of you are using the envelopes that we enclose with these letters. Don't be discouraged. We will come through this together, and we will be a better church and a better people.

Donna and I send our love to each of you. I will see you on the weekend!

Love from your pastor,



David Jeremiah