



Monday Morning Missive

**Great morning, First Baptist Church Family!
These verses from Isaiah 43 have been echoing in
my mind this morning, so I thought I would share
them with you.**

**¹ But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O
Jacob,**

And He who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by your name;

You are Mine.

**² When you pass through the waters, I will be with
you;**

**And through the rivers, they shall not overflow
you.**

**When you walk through the fire, you shall not be
burned,**

Nor shall the flame scorch you.

**³ For I am the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I gave Egypt for your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in your place.**

**⁴ Since you were precious in My sight,
You have been honored,
And I have loved you;
Therefore I will give men for you,
And people for your life.**

⁵ Fear not, for I am with you;

In the midst of all that is going on, I believe that it applies to God's people today. We can have faith and confidence that God is doing something spectacular in the middle of this chaos. Let me give you an example from the power of social media. When Bro. Chapel played on Facebook last week, he reached over 6,000 people with a message of hope and salvation. Yesterday, our Sunday School and Worship service reached over 1,200 people just through Facebook. How does that happen? Because we are being faithful in our

service to the Father – and because you shared our services with all of your friends and many of them shared it with their friends. I tell you this not to brag about our numbers, but to remind us all that there are people out there who are hungrier than ever for the hope that you and I have. They are searching for something, and we need to do everything within our power to show them that their something is really a Someone, and His name is Jesus.

Well, let's talk a little bit about the future. We all know that we are only two weeks away from Easter, and the social distancing guidelines have been extended out another four weeks. So, I am going to meet with the staff today (through Zoom) to talk about what we can do to make that day special. If you have some ideas, I would love to hear them.

By the way, we are going to continue to try to keep as normal a schedule as we can. We will continue to do Bible Study and Worship on

Sunday mornings, and on Wednesday night, I will do our online prayer meeting and Bible Study at 6 p.m. Several of our small groups and Sunday School classes are meeting online. Let me encourage you to give it a try if you haven't already done so. Our resident expert, Bro. Zack, will be glad to walk you through how to get started. The more connected we stay now will help us resume our normal schedule when things settle down.

This just in – Bro. Randy Nolen just came into my office and asked me to put this in my missive. From this point forward, the Acree Property will be open for all of our church family from 8 in the morning until 7 at night. Take your family out there to fish and have a picnic or just to walk around the pond. Remember, you still need to practice social distancing with those not part of your family, but this will give you an opportunity to get out of the house and experience the beauty of this great gift God has given to us.

Some of you are asking what you can do to help out in this situation. Let me give you a few suggestions.

- Pray daily for everyone God puts on your hearts – your church staff needs it desperately.**
- Send cards, notes, e-mails, text messages to people in your contacts list.**
- If you are a deacon, Sunday School teacher, or small group leader, please call the people in your group to see how they are doing. Remind them that the staff is here for them, and we have a group of volunteers ready to serve whatever needs they may have.**
- If you are on Facebook, keep sharing our posts and broadcasts every day to reach as many people as possible. If you have ideas as to how we can improve our social media presence, share them with me.**
- Be faithful in your giving. I praise the Lord that you have continued to tithe during this time, and I think I'm correct in saying that we**

were close to meeting our monthly budget needs because of that.

God has been good to us at First Baptist Church, so let's give Him all the praise, honor and glory.

I love you all, and I can't wait to tell you that face to face.

Bro. Ben