



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**Good morning to the greatest church family in the whole wide world! It is such a blessing to wake up on Monday morning and to think about how good it was to be with all my brothers and sisters in Christ on Sunday. We have a sweet fellowship blessed by the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. And we are excited about our prospective new members, Glen and Connie Elmore. Once they go through our New Members' Class and are presented to the church, they will become full-fledged members of First Baptist. Let me give you their contact information so that you can give them a call, send them an e-mail, or drop them a note welcoming them to our family.**

**Glen and Connie Elmore**

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**This morning, I feel the need to address the issue of the Coronavirus “scare.” Personally, I am not overly concerned about all of the possibilities being thrown out by the media. I have researched and studied the reports, and I believe that we ought to be taking this seriously but not to the point of panic. We should take all the precautions that are being talked about by the professionals, but always remember that God is in control. He has not given us a spirit of fear but a sound mind, and we need to use that sound mind and can show the lost world around us that we trust Him. Let me tell you how I am approaching this. I am washing my hands MANY times a day. Every time I go into or leave a hospital room, I am using the hand sanitizer the hospital provides.**

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**If I were planning to go on a cruise or take a flight to somewhere, I would cancel it. If I start exhibiting symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing), I would self-quarantine and call my doctor. If everyone will simply think logically and focus on doing the right things for ourselves and for our neighbors, we will be fine.**

**With that said, we know that it is probably only a matter of time before there are cases in our area. When that happens, my advice will be the same as above. It may come to the point that we will need to cancel our public gatherings, but now is not that time. In the meantime, when we do come together, let's avoid handshakes (I heard this morning that fist bumps reduce the spread of germs by 90%) and, I hate to say this, we probably should minimize the hugs. Keep some distance between you and other people to cut down on the spread of all germs.**

**Prayerfully, these kinds of restrictions will be**

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**short-lived, and we can get back to loving on each other very soon.**

**Now for some positive happenings. I am excited about our upcoming Special Business Meeting, and believe me that is saying a lot. I have seldom been excited about a business meeting, but this is the one where we share with you the information we received from Visioneering Studios and make the applicable recommendations so that our church can continue to minister to our community for the next generation. We will NOT be voting on any particular recommendations because we want you to have time to pray and think through all of them. But it is very important that you be here so that you can know where we believe God is leading us.**

**And don't forget our Missions Fair on Saturday. It kicks off at 8:30 with a continental breakfast and fellowship. There will be a time of worship**

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**with Brittany Hall. We will see videos from all of our own missionaries with a special report by Chad McKelvey concerning our recent Honduras trip. If you stick with us, you will receive information concerning upcoming mission trips and how you can be involved in these. It's going to be great, so make plans to be here.**

**On Sunday, we will NOT have any evening activities due to the start of Spring Break. Enjoy the time with your families.**

**One more thing: my door is always open. If you have questions about anything, please feel free to come and ask. If you don't understand something I've said or you have an idea about how things could be done better, I would love to hear from you.**

**Have a blessed Monday!**

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**Bro. Ben**

**P.S. Doug and Emily Patterson have a praise. Pilots for Christ will be flying them back and forth on their trips to M.D. Anderson for his cancer checkups. Pilots for Christ is a great ministry. Sonya and I discovered that we can support them by making them our charity of choice with Amazon's Smile program. It's pretty simple. Just go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), sign up for their Smiles program, choose your charity, and every time you order from Amazon, go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to place your order.**

**Dr. Ben Hayes,  
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