



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**Good morning, dear friends. I hope that you have had a restful, Spirit-filled weekend. God has been so good to us, and I am excited, even in the midst of all this uncertainty, about what He is doing. I went home from church yesterday mentally, emotionally, and physically exhausted, but I couldn't take a nap. In my spirit, I kept thinking about what God is doing in His church. All I can say to you at this point is that we must keep working to meet the needs of our people and the people in our community so that they can see His love shining through us. School is about to start back – one way or the other – and there are some big needs out there. Sonya and I were talking about some ways that we can be**

**involved, so I am going to throw them out there and let you decide how you would like to participate. You can start bringing supplies to the church at any point.**

- 1. Bring canned soft drinks for the teachers break room.**
- 2. Bring school supplies for the children and the classrooms.**
- 3. Build the plexiglass dividers for the teachers. Teachers, if you would be interested in something like this, let me know and give me an idea of what that would look like.**
- 4. Gift cards for our teachers to use to purchase supplies.**

**I don't know if you have caught the sense of what God is laying on my heart these past few weeks. I hope that you have. We are truly in a battle, and we see it being played out all around us. We are blessed to be living in such a close-knit community that doesn't erupt into**

**turmoil like so many other places, but keep in mind that there have been those coming into our town trying to stir things up. It is a testimony to the grace of God and the relationships that we have with each other that has kept emotions from boiling over. It is our responsibility to do everything that we can to live in peace with others and to love those who are unlovable. That doesn't mean that we condone their actions or ignore their attacks. It just means that we do everything we can to demonstrate the heart and mind of Jesus to each other. We must not compromise. We must not back down. But we also must not push back. Our battle is not against flesh and blood. If it were, we would have no hope because we are vastly outnumbered. Our battle is spiritual, so we must fight it from our prayer closets and through our testimony.**

**My sermon yesterday was about faith for the future. I believe that when we come out of this**

**pandemic, things are going to look much different than what we anticipated. I perceive that church attendance will remain low for some time – maybe even years. Now don't use that as an excuse not to come back as soon as you feel God leading because we need you and you need us. But be smart and stay safe. And keep in mind that while the numbers may be down, the ministry will be up. We need to start rethinking how we are doing to do ministry in every aspect of our church. Missions, Sunday School, Discipleship, Evangelism, and everything else we do needs to be re-visioned. How can we best nurture our people? How can we be most effective in reaching the lost? These are questions that our staff is asking right now, and we need your help. Please let us know your ideas because we believe that God has gifted our church with extremely creative and innovative people who have a heart for ministry.**

**Let me give you a small example of what I'm talking about. Pre-Covid 19 our attendance in Sunday School was averaging well over 200. Now, through our online and on-campus groups, we are averaging about 60. Worship was around 260, and now online and on-campus adds up to about 270. We had maybe 80 people on campus in 3 services yesterday and 196 online. The 196 is determined by a series of calculations that involve minutes watched, time of service, and average size of household in our area. Will this be a trend in the future? I don't know, but I do know that we need to figure out a way to get more people involved in Bible Study because it is important. I know that several of our classes are taking care of their people and staying in touch with each other, but the Bible teaching is as important as the caring part of Sunday School.**

**So what do you think? Let me know. And know this – your pastor loves you deeply.**

**Bro. Ben**

**Dr. Ben Hayes,**  
**Senior Pastor**  
**First Baptist Church Dadeville**  
[bhayes@fbcdadeville.com](mailto:bhayes@fbcdadeville.com)