



Monday Morning Missive

Good morning, church family. What a weekend we have had. I don't know about you, but I sure missed being able to be in the House of the Lord yesterday. I am thankful that we have the wonderful blessing of technology that allows us to worship online, but my friends, it just isn't the same. Sonya and I were talking yesterday afternoon, and we both agreed: it just didn't feel like Sunday. We watched the service, and we were focused in every way, but it isn't the same as being together with God's people. But that's the way it has to be as we strive to keep everyone safe. We will be online for prayer meeting on Wednesday and worship next Sunday. Then, if all goes well, we will be back together again. The plan is that the church will be professionally sanitized this week while we are out. So don't look for us at the church; we are all working from

home. Call any of us if you need us.

I am so grateful for all the people who are willing to give of their time and energy in ministry. The men and women who have worked to clean up the stadium have done a great job, but there is more to do. We need another good day of pressure washing to finish, so if you can help, please let me know. We are waiting on brackets so that we can finish the dividers/sneeze guards. Sonya and I have been doing some prep work, so it won't take as long to finish when they come in. I will let you know when that will be. We also need to make sure we get our soft drinks in for the teachers so that we can bless them as the school year starts. And don't forget to pray for all who will be working in our schools as well as the children and the parents. Lots of decisions are being made, and we need to pray that God will keep everyone healthy. I am praying every day, and I hope that you are, too. One more thing: Mr. Kerby has asked if anyone might have some time to do some work around the front of the elementary school to

spruce it up before school starts. If you can help out, let me know.

Just a quick update on how things are going. Our numbers have been staying up very well. When you combine our on-campus attenders with our online attenders, we are averaging over 300 in worship. We have lots of people that are “dropping in” on our online services, so you never know how that might affect some of them. You have been faithful in your giving, so the bills are being paid. Please continue to pray and serve and give as we feel our way through the rest of this pandemic. You probably already know this, but many of the experts are concerned that there will be a resurgence of the virus after school begins. Your Leadership Team has decided to pray and wait until after school has been in session for a couple of weeks before we decide about our next steps, but I am excited about some of the ideas that have come from the team as we have talked about ways we can move forward especially in the area of Sunday School. We will

keep you posted.

Finally, this morning, I want to ask you to pray for our city. Most of you have heard that there was a shooting yesterday on West Street, just down the road from the church. A couple of men got into a fight and one shot the other. At this time, I am not aware of the man's condition or even his name, but there is a family involved. In addition, some children witnessed the violence as well as some of our church members. Please pray for God to heal the physical and emotional wounds that have occurred in this violence, but most importantly, pray that God will heal our city from the spiritual attacks that are taking place. Pray for our police officers, firemen, ambulance drivers, and emergency room workers. This is a dangerous time for all of them because of the depression and frustration that is building during this pandemic.

But remember this: God is in control.

**I love you all,
Bro. Ben**