

## Pastor's Notes

The Chinese have a saying, "May you live in interesting times" and meant it as a curse. What an unprecedented time we are living in! Consider this as a long distance "handshake and hello" since we are still practicing safe "social distancing practices".

Usually in this article I share with you what has taken place and what we are looking forward to in the month ahead. You might be tempted to think nothing has really happened the last month, but you will be surprised to learn much has taken place. I will share with you some of April's Highlights:

- We have exceeded our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Goal of \$6,500.00. As of this writing we are a little over \$7,100.00 Praise the Lord! Every dollar goes to the work here in North America and during these economically depressed times – those dollars are needed more than ever before.
- We have also been able to present Virtual Zoom Prayer Meetings on Wednesday night. We averaged around 20 for those meetings. It is a blessing to be able to see everyone and gather in prayer as we pray over the needs of our country, our church, and each other.
- We were able to deliver to each member their own Lord's Supper cup and encouraged them to participate with us online during the Good Friday Service. We observed the Lord's Supper together in spirit.
- We are continuing to provide our morning and evening services online and have seen several non-members tune in. A big shout-out goes to Bro. Bobby Hanna who has worked tirelessly on the technological side of things to improve our services. I appreciate you being patient with us as we are doing "on the job learning." It has been a blessing to me to hear from some of our members who share about what a blessing it has been to them to be able to watch the services.
- We were able to provide a brand-new resource for all our members. It is called "Right Now Media". It has been referred to as the "Netflix" of Christian bible studies with over 20,000 video bible studies available for you to watch. You can sign-up a variety of ways: via our website, the text we sent you, or download the Right Now Media app. I pray that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Now we stand on the threshold of the month of May. It appears things will start to open gradually in Tennessee and in particular Hardeman County. The

deacons, Bobby, and I met on April 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and when the church might be able to re-open its doors. We also discussed what measures we would put in place once we open. It was decided not to open the church building back up for public meetings until more is understood. Beginning May 10<sup>th</sup>, we plan to have weekly assessments of the situation to evaluate not only when, but how the church can re-open its doors. Over the course of the last several weeks we have studied materials from the TBC and many other sources regarding how to do this. As we discussed strategies on how to occupy the church in the safest possible manner it became apparent once we begin, we will likely do it in stages. Once we put the plan in place the church will, of course see it, and we will invite comments. This is, indeed, an unprecedented time and new research, models or news is being presented almost daily. As we wade through all the considerations and once a date has been determined for us to reopen, I will share with you the steps that we have put in place. Please continue to keep your pastor and the leaders of this church in your prayers.

In the meantime, I would encourage you to continue to watch our services online, participate in our Virtual prayer meetings, use the Right Now Media materials, and continue to stay in contact with one another.

God bless you,  
Bro. Troy

### April Report

Average Attendance in Sunday School:	-----
Average Offering:	\$5,406.75
Annie Armstrong Offering for April:	\$2,537.00
Annie Armstrong Offering to Date:	\$7,165.00

#### Dear Church Family:

**We know there are many great cooks in our church. This is why we would like to compose a cookbook that includes your favorite recipes.**

**If you have an interest in this please email us at:**

**[fbcgjrecipes@gmail.com](mailto:fbcgjrecipes@gmail.com)**

**or you can send your recipe to:**

**FBCGJ Recipes, P.O. Box 103, Grand Junction, TN 38039**