

North Hamilton Church of Christ

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**“Have You Been Exposed (Part 2)?”
David B. Smith**

This Week’s Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

May 1 – Melinda Horn
4 – Carolyn Lasiter

Anniversaries:

None this week

Reminders:

Our online worship service is posted to Facebook and YouTube on Sunday at 10 AM

To make your contribution digitally, you can use Venmo:
@NorthHamilton-ChurchOfChrist

3. It is possible that some husbands/fathers are being exposed. This pandemic has forced us for the moment to be absent from our corporate assemblies. I think we understand why it is important to follow distancing recommendations. This has left us in uncharted territory on Sundays, as far as being together is concerned. The obligation to worship remains the same (Acts 20:7; 2:42; 1 Cor. 16:1-2), except that we can only worship with our families within our houses.

Who leads that worship? According to the Bible, the Christian men of that house lead the worship to God (1 Tim. 2:8-15). The men lead the prayers. The men lead the partaking of the Lord’s Supper. The men lead the study of Scriptures. The men lead the singing. We are thankful that some of this is being assisted by the eldership. They are making available an online service where some of our worship is being directed. We also have a mid-week study available on the Internet. But not everyone has access to these resources. Skipping worship during our absence is not an option (Heb. 10:24-25) so men are being required to lead their families.

Some men are struggling to fill this role because of a lack of training. Before the pandemic, we might have been uninvolved. We didn’t lead in worship because someone else did it for us. Now we are waist deep in a crisis and families are depending on the men to get it done. For some, this is a wake-up call. We have been exposed. More training is necessary so that we aren’t caught in this state again.

4. Some congregations are now rushing to catch up with technology. If you have access to various social media sites on the Internet, you may have noticed some congregations attempting to publish virtual services. As mentioned in the previous point, these usually consist of prayers and preaching. Some offer a guide for the Lord’s Supper. Some even offer singing. It is truly encouraging that God’s people have a presence in the online world. I am proud of the work we are doing with this at North Hamilton. Sites like Facebook and YouTube are among the most popular on the planet. This is where God wants us to be (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:18-20).

The problem for many congregations is that they weren’t prepared to engage the world like this. I know numerous congregations that have gone silent for weeks now. They have no voice. There is no presence. They have disappeared, as far as the world can see. Coronavirus is exposing areas where we have underappreciated the need to keep up with the times. Along with that, we must always do our best to make the presentations appealing. We are always required to give one hundred percent (Ecc. 9:10). We must always be “all things to all men” (1 Cor. 9:19-23). That means we seek out and find the most relevant ways to deliver the unchangeable Gospel of Jesus Christ.

These are just a few areas where we have likely been exposed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Not all congregations or individuals have these same deficiencies. All of us have something to work on. So let’s leave the pandemic better than when we started. Let’s commit to the improvements we need to make and eliminate our areas of weakness. We will all be better for it. The world will be too.