

# SPANISH MINISTRY

Varios días han pasado desde la última vez que nos comunicamos por medio de este periódico. Para mí este tiempo ha sido de bendición. He aprendido de una manera especial, lo que dice Santiago 1:2-8; mejor dicho, lo he vivido!

Durante este tiempo de estar restringido en casa, el Señor ha continuado trabajando en las vidas nuestras, aunque hemos estado estáticos, y ha continuado el trabajo en el edificio nuestro. Este trabajo ya está por terminar y nos darán el permiso para ocuparlo en esta semana, Dios mediante.

Nos hemos dado cuenta de lo necesario que es estar adorando a Dios juntos en armonía, y que bueno que ÉL nos ha mostrado la importancia de confiar en ÉL y no apoyarnos en nuestra inteligencia. No hay duda de que hemos sido probados en esto, y la prueba no termina. ¡No la fallemos!

Hemos recibido bendiciones y espero que Uds. no solamente hayan alabado a Dios durante este tiempo, sino que también hayan bendecido a otros. Hermanos, cuando regresemos a congregarnos, tendremos que continuar siendo prudentes y reconociendo las normas que se han dictado para prevenir contagiar a otros.

Los ancianos somos más susceptibles a ser contagiados y debemos mantenernos atentos de eso. Todos queremos expresar cuanto nos hemos hecho falta, pero no es razón por la cual violar las reglas que se nos han dictado. Algunos cuestionan que sí no confiamos a Dios. Creo que la respuesta es SI, pero también somos prudentes en nuestro vivir.

Yo les notificaré la fecha cuando tendremos nuestro primer servicio. Espero que Uds. no hayan dejado de adorar a Dios, en sí, ¡¡para eso nos creó!!

En servicio a Dios,

*Norman Torres, Pastor*

Several days have passed since the last time we communicated through this newsletter. For me, this time of trial has been a blessing. I have learned in a special way what James 1: 2-8 says, because I have lived it!



During this time of being restricted at home, the Lord has continued to work in our lives, and HE has continued the work on our building. We expect that they will give us permission to occupy it this week, God willing. We have realized how necessary it is to worship God together in harmony, and how good it is that HE has shown us the importance of trusting in Him and not relying on our own intelligence. There is no doubt that we have been tested on this, and the test is not over yet. Let's not fail it!

We have received many blessings, and I hope that you not only have praised God during this time, but that you have also blessed others. Brothers and sisters, when we come back together, we will have to continue being prudent and recognize the norms that have been dictated to prevent infecting others.

The elderly are more susceptible to being infected, and we must keep an eye on that. We all want to express how much we have missed each other, but we must not violate the rules that have been dictated to us. Do some question our trust in GOD? I think the answer is, "YES", but we must also be prudent in our living and our decision making.

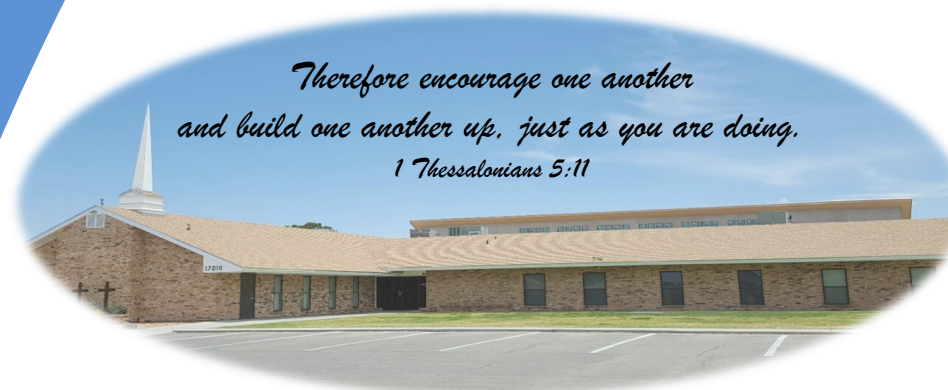
*Norman Torres, Pastor*

Just a thought . . .

Went to the doctor yesterday, and he asked me if obesity runs in my family. I told him, "No one runs in my family!"



# First Baptist Church of Horizon City



*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:11



## THE ENCOURAGER

No. 25

June 2020

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'"*

Psalm 122:1

This verse expresses a joy that every Christ-follower should feel and understand. The church may be scattered, but it never ceases to exist. In recent days we still remain part of the church—the body of the redeemed in all time—and a part of a local body of Christ.

The book of Hebrews issues this instruction: *"Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near,"* (10:24-25).

The New Testament word that is translated "church" is "ekklesia." A more literal translation of this word would be "assembly" or "gathering."

When possible, it is important for the "gathering" to actually gather. March 22<sup>nd</sup> was the last time that our church had a joint gathering; **we will resume our 10 a.m. English worship service on Fathers' Day, June 21.** Things will be different, as it is important for us to be responsible in our community.



The details of our reopening will be provided in this newsletter. If you have questions or input, please contact the church office

by phone or e-mail. The church staff has been sorting through a large number of resources, talked to other pastors, visited other churches that are open and participated in webinars from some of the leading organizations dealing with these issues. The restrictions we will be imposing are based on best practices. As we will be opening in phases, not everything will begin at once. After we monitor phase 1 and get clearance from local and state authorities, our next phase will be announced. Please pray for safety and wisdom. If you are not comfortable in returning yet, please wait until things improve.

Jesus is LORD,  
*Pastor Wes*

### ABOUT THE BUILDING

The building is facing final inspections and we believe that we will have occupancy this week or next. If you return to our service on June 21, a "no-touch" tour will be available. All the doors will be propped open and lights and air conditioners will be on. This will allow you to see the rooms. The furnishings and wall décor will be completed, given more time. It will be very exciting to see the progress that has been made in the last two to three months!



# YOUTH & Children

We are so excited to announce that we are planning a return for the youth group on **at 7PM on June 28<sup>th</sup> outside under the canopies**. It will be a night of worship, with a message! **As we return to meet, we will be taking the right precautions: We are asking anyone who comes to wear a mask and participate in air hugs and air high fives. We are also requesting that everyone keep a six feet distance; we are doing this to protect each other. We will have chairs set up outside. Everyone will be spread out, but if you are in the same family, you can sit together. We will also have hand sanitizer available and will disinfect everything before you arrive and after you leave.** We are so excited to get back to meeting and hear as God leads us on this road to a new normal. Come join us! We would love to have you. It will be June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM under the canopies. It is okay if you do not feel comfortable returning at this time. We still encourage you to watch Pastor Wes's sermons on our website or on Facebook. See you soon!



Hello parents and children, we are excited about the return to church that will take place on June 21<sup>st</sup>. At this time, we will not be resuming our children's ministry. We are still working on a plan to return. We are requesting that if you come to our church service or Bible study, sit together with your family. We will have little booklets to keep the kids occupied. You can bring things from home as well. We also are requiring everyone to wear a mask, and this includes the kids. We also understand if you are not comfortable returning at this time. That is okay, and we encourage your family to view Pastor Wes's sermons on our website or on Facebook; we encourage you to make the best decision for your family. We will be in touch with you about a date to return to kid's ministry when we decide that it is safe to do so. Stay tuned. We miss you guys!

## IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTES

- If you or anyone in your residence is sick, please stay home.
- If you know you have been exposed to Covid-19, please stay home for two more weeks.
- If you are in a high-risk group, especially if you have an underlying health difficulty, please stay home. (As we write, 100 people in El Paso County have died with Covid-19. All but two of them had known, underlying health problems; it is possible the other two had complicating conditions that were undiagnosed.)
- If you are just not ready, please stay home. The service will be available online.
- If you cannot follow guidelines or cannot be courteous and flexible, please stay home.

## Basic Instructions for 10 a.m. service:

- There will be no 8 a.m. service or Sunday school.
- A servant crew will be here early to open all areas. This crew will have their temperature taken before they are allowed to help.
- Service participants will be required to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and be seated by ushers. There will not be need for you to touch anything during the worship service.
- Families will be required to sit together. There will be no nursery or children's classes. Children are welcome but must remain with their family.
- The praise team will be smaller than usual and each member will have their temperature taken before entry to the building. They will have individual microphones that will be disinfected before and after use. They will not be required to wear a mask while singing.
- Pastors on the platform will not be wearing a mask, but will be required to do so if not speaking.
- The building will be disinfected before and after.
- Following the service you can tour the new building, but please do not gather for conversation. That needs to happen outside the building.
- We will set up the black plastic chairs for the service as they are easier to sanitize. If you need a different chair, ushers will respond to this need. Please request this change.
- Individuals that have difficulty with a mask will not be required to wear one.
- No offering plates will be passed. Offerings can be deposited in a box at the back of the auditorium.



## ON THE HOME FRONT

It has been an eventful time during Covid-19. For those who are new to us, we are Home Church Networks: a group of believers dedicated to expanding the kingdom of God through homes. During the past few months, we have not been able to meet in person with multiple families. However, we have increased our online presence through platforms like Zoom and Facebook live. Meeting in homes two years prior to Covid-19 has prepared us to maintain our momentum of ministry, even with restrictions; after all, we have been in the habit of gathering, studying, and worshipping at home.



Daniel & Love Bell and family

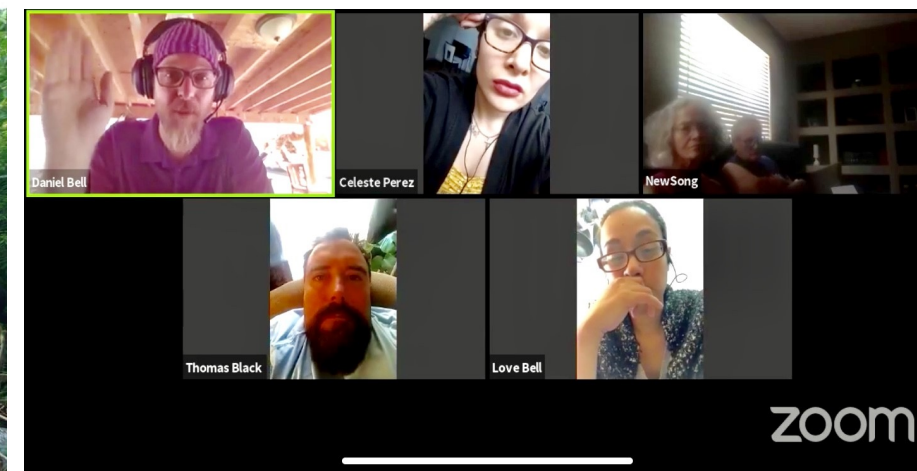
The Lord led us to an opportunity to help a poor community in the Philippines. They were running out of food because of the pandemic lockdown. We published the need using social media, and many believers responded with prayers and financial aid. This would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of generous believers nationwide. As a result, over 170 families were able to receive food relief, hear the gospel, and have the opportunity for continuous discipleship with three local churches in the area of Banana Island, Philippines.

Our simple home ministry was also able to give out 45 boxes of food to our neighbors, with the help of El Paso Baptist Association and First Baptist Church of Horizon City. Your continued love and support as a sponsor church are being multiplied for the kingdom. We appreciate and thank you.



Please pray for:

- *Complete healing for all our friends who contracted Covid-19.* Praise God, one of our friends is now home with her six children and continuing to recover. We have another household who is suffering from cancer and other illnesses. Pray for their healing and plans to relocate. They desire to continue reaching out to their neighbors by means of home church ministry.
- *The community of Banana Island, Philippines, and the surrounding local Churches as they plan for long term goals of discipleship.* \$25 will feed a family for a week. If you are interested in sponsoring a family, please contact us at (915) 491-4786.
- *The direction of our ministry.* Multiple homes will start meeting again with other families, beginning soon in June or July of 2020.



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 Find us on **Facebook** Video of our weekly sermons are provided each week  **First Baptist Church Horizon City**

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