

LIVING WORD

Weekly Update

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Update – May 12, 2020

The update for today is brief. We are all waiting to hear what the Governor will propose this week. We don't know what will change or how it will affect us as a church. We don't get any special insights or pre-update communications from the Governor's office. Like you, we hear the changes as he speaks them. That means that we can only react to what is proposed. Because of this, our future planning or our plan for coming back into a "new normal" needs a large dose of flexibility and wiggle room to accommodate any restrictions or orders that are unforeseen by us. That being said, we have been working on a Multi-Phase Plan for resuming ministry in the "new normal" that will come out of all of this. The plan will be a framework to guide us and will contain the flexibility needed to address possible surprises that could arise in either the Governor's orders or the changing landscape of infections within our community. This Sunday Pastor Dave will be preaching on the reality of being weary! He hopes to share with you this Multi-Phase Plan and remind us all of God's goodness and grace. Next week, we will send out that plan as the Weekly Update for the week. We are also assessing the need for the Weekly Update communication in the weeks ahead. If it is helpful, we will continue. If it is redundant or unhelpful, we will cease sending it weekly and shift to an "as needed" communication. We are highly aware of the fact that written communication is one of the few "touches" that we have to go deeper into the issues at hand and get information to you. We are trying to strike a balance. As always, we are constantly assessing and discussing what we are doing and how we are doing it. Considering this, we ask for grace, prayers and encouragement. We are grateful for your partnership in this tough time. Please know that we are praying for you and we are with you! God is moving. God is good!

Community/Pastoral Care/Prayer

The information contained in these sections remains unchanged from prior weeks and was also reflected in the Announcement Folder for May 10, 2020. Please look back at last week's communications for calendar and other details.

Encouragement/Devotion – May 12, 2020

Deuteronomy 2:7 For the Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing.

Greg Anderson, the Director of Inspiration Point, brought this verse to my attention in our weekly call of encouragement and prayer that we have with one another on Tuesday mornings. It was a word that both of us needed! I don't know about you, but this past week has felt like I've been wandering around in the wilderness. Maybe you've felt that way too? The days and weeks are dragging on and I don't see an end. I'm feeling tired. As of today, our "wilderness wandering" has been about two months. That is a long time. However, God's people, led by Moses, wandered for FORTY YEARS!!! FORTY YEARS! As I write these words, I'm feeling sort of guilty. We've had it SO good and gotten use to such abundance and plenty that a few weeks of real struggle and difficulty are driving me crazy! Here's the thing, this is a hard time. The season we are in is not easy. It is stressful and it has impacted all of us in big ways. We will be changed by the events that are taking place. In the days ahead we will need to come together as a community and find ways to help each other out. We will need to care for our small business owners and our neighbors who have lost income or jobs. We will need to lift up those who are losing hope or feeling defeated. We will need to pray for each other, listen to each other and encourage each other through all the changes that occur. I know we will make it through because we aren't alone! God is moving. God is with us. God will provide and care for us. "...God has been with you. YOU HAVE LACKED NOTHING!" That's what the text said. That was true then and it is still true today! This is our unchanging good God. He is a provider. He loves us. I trust that truth and I pray that you do too. As a church, we will continue to reach out in prayer to you. We will continue to remind you of God's promises in worship and in Bible Studies and conversations with you. Together we will seek the Lord and discover how He is providing for us through our wilderness wanderings. I hope and pray this doesn't last forty years! I hope we begin to see things change for the better real soon. But whatever happens, let's

never lose sight of this truth – God has been with us and God will be with us, providing for us through it all! Cling to those words. Speak them to yourself and others daily. They are the truth!

In Christ,
Pastor Dave Christensen

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God's Peace ~ Living Word Pastors, Staff & Leadership