



GRACE BIBLE FAMILY,

This past weekend as we gathered together and experienced baptisms I was so encouraged and I trust you were as well! The models and methods of ministry constantly shift but the mission stays the same as we *empower a movement of people to live and love like Jesus*. Whether you joined in person for our first Sunday Morning parking lot service or joined [online](#) and were able to engage with others we took the first steps toward being together again. I am so proud of our staff who put in many hours planning, preparing, coordinating, and executing these gatherings. It was a stretch for all involved; staff, volunteers, attenders and visitors.

As we continue to gather together in person whether in small or large groups each of us needs to keep in mind our social behaviors with regard to COVID-19. The elders and staff are aware that there are a multiplicity of convictions and viewpoints regarding how we interpret and apply government guidelines within our congregation. The greatest value is that we honor one another and give lots of grace as we navigate this time together. In the spirit of unity we ask that you continue to **love each other through your words and actions** and when we gather this means we:

- **Continue to social distance.** Others who have joined in corporate worship may not be comfortable with close contact. Be sensitive to others and respect their wish for social distance. Please refrain from contact with those outside of your immediate family / household as that is the easiest way to spread COVID-19. It's very easy to forget this when you see someone you haven't seen in six months and want to run up and give them a handshake or hug. Feel free to move chairs to ensure appropriate social distance.
- **Wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.** It seems that the topic of masks is one of the highest points of contention and we do not want our differing opinions about masks to drive a wedge between us. Again - be sensitive and respectful of others with regard to masks. Some people cannot wear masks because of health reasons, others have to wear them for health reasons.
- **Protect others by worshipping online with us.** If you are sick, have recently been exposed to someone who is sick, or suspect you might be sick please worship with us from the comfort of your home.
- **Wash and/or sanitize your hands regularly.** Hand sanitizer has been available on campus and will be made available during services. Feel free to use the provided hand sanitizer or bring your own.

PASTORAL UPDATE



Wednesday, August 20th

Watch today's pastoral update [here](#) to learn more from Pastor Jason about our outdoor and interactive online service options.

In regards to this season, I have been encouraged by this passage.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

As I consider that passage a couple of ideas jump out at me:

- We need to be unwavering in our confession of hope. Let's not allow our current circumstances to reduce our hope but rather be strengthened. Our God is faithful and we can and must rely on Him.
- We need to consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. Don't let our situation stifle our stirring up of one another. Continue to encourage each other whether in person or through phone calls, letters, email, text, any means necessary. Continue to love God, each other, and the world!
- Don't neglect to meet together. Even though the government has issued orders limiting our ability to meet I have never felt that the people of Grace Bible Church have neglected to meet or lost the desire to meet. As many other churches have done we are trying new and innovative ways to be together. We will continue to do so.
- As the Day draws near we need to encourage even more. As we proceed toward that final Day it is likely that circumstances will get tougher and tougher requiring additional encouragement. Already in 2020 we have experienced a variety of trying events and there may be more in the future. We need to keep gathering with and encouraging each other so that we can all stand fast in our faith.

It has been a blessing to be a part of Grace Bible Church during these trying times and I hope you have experienced that same blessing. If you desire or need [prayer](#) the elders are always available to receive your requests. Email us elders@gracebibleag.com anytime.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST,

Matt Tencati and the Elder Team