

Greetings TCF Family,

Thank you so much for continuing to pray for our nation and the work of the gospel in these trying times.

As you know, COVID 19 is so virulent and spreading so fast that our government has shut down (as much as possible) all group meetings of more than a handful of people. We are cooperating with this, of course, because it is the best way to be a witnessing part of our community and because it is the best way to protect the at-risk population among us.

This means that during this temporary emergency we will not gather in our worship center for the next several Sundays. How long this goes on will depend on factors outside of our control (but not outside the Lord's control).

But, providentially, the Lord has allowed this crisis to happen at a time when we have the technology to “connect” through the internet. TCF has a website, a Facebook page, and a YouTube presence.

So, on Sundays at 10:00am, our usual gathering time, we will broadcast our service, complete with a time of worship, followed by a teaching from me, Pastor Rick. We will continue the series we started last week, *Living with the Plague*.

Also, please take note of the following continuing aspects of our ministry

- Our pastoral prayer ministry continues unabated. Please send requests to Prayer@trail.org
 - *And of course we assume that you are praying specifically for the gospel's progress and guidance for our nation and the world at this critical time.*
- Our phones and computers work, so we are available for pastoral care through those means.
- Our gifted tech staff is working on other ways of making the Word available to all of us during the week. Check on our website or call or email us for ongoing updates about opportunities to study and grow together.
- Our office is still open, 9-5, Tuesday through Friday.

Three brief reminders:

- The Body of Christ is alive and well. *The Lord gives life to the church, not the other way around.*
 - Remember that during this emergency, while we cannot gather as we would like, the Body of Christ is nevertheless functioning and serving through prayer and practical help. The Spirit of Christ is within us and working through us.
 - Remember that, even though our normal spiritual life is nourished by gathering in larger groups than our immediate families, this does not mean that the Body of Christ is critically dependent on those large gatherings.
 - Remember that we can continue to invest in and support gospel work, especially in times of crisis. Our gifts, which are a vital part of our worship, support local ministry in practical, hands-on ways and cross-cultural outreach through our many missionaries who rely on us to supply them overseas.
- We are still the church in our homes. *Even a very small gathering, a family, can know that the Lord is there.*
 - Remember that the Lord, the Spirit of Christ, is within us individually, which is why we can pray in our own rooms (Matt.6:6) and be confident that even praying with one other person is a joining with the Lord himself (Matt.18:20).
 - We are encouraging you as families to read the Word together, pray together, and avail yourself of the different sources of spiritual strength available at our website, Facebook page, and YouTube link.
- We are part of a larger plan that the Lord is implementing on our world. *COVID 19 did not catch the Lord by surprise.*
 - Eph.1:11 says that the Lord works all things according to the counsel of his will...
 - Romans 8:28 says that he works in such a way that all things combine to produce something good for God's people. That “good” must include what he is doing in us and through us at times like these.
 - Our goal as Christians is to respond to the Lord's providential work in prayer and redemptive action, even if that “action” means reducing our physical contact with others temporarily.

In His Grace,

Pastor Rick and the TCF pastoral staff.