

Friday, March 27, 2020

Riverbend Update

From Pastor Bob Flack (flack.bob@gmail.com)

Strengthening Fellowship under Stress

These are strange and difficult times to maintain fellowship in a local church like ours. I encourage you to pray and consider creative ways to reach out to others that do not violate the restrictions we want to honor as we love our neighbors. Here are some plans in the works:

- Pastors Larry, Brandon, and I did hold an elder's meeting on Tuesday. I am so thankful for these two men and their co-shepherding among us. Larry created three care lists so that, between us, we might be in contact with those listed in our directory at least once each week. Look forward to a phone call.
- I am aware of cards and notes going through the mail. Praise God for each one. Often, those who do not use the internet most appreciate hand-written correspondence. Think of someone who might delight to receive something from you.
- I am considering hosting an inductive Bible study online through a meeting platform on Wednesday evenings. Let me hear from you if you are interested. I would pick a book or section that we could cover in six weeks and then assess whether or not to continue with another book. Suggest a book or section you'd like to study.
- I learned today that the recent *Pilgrim's Progress* movie is available to stream free for a limited time. Let me encourage you to devote some at-home time to watch this excellent presentation. I suggest reading Megan Basham's review first (<https://worldandeverything.org/2020/03/review-the-pilgrims-progress/>). In the review's fourth paragraph is a link to access the movie.
- Preaching and Prayer live feed will again be available at our Facebook page this Sunday.

Praying in the Current Crisis

- SIM as a mission agency has organized its worldwide family to pray about this global pandemic. They have an online prayer guide listing ten different

aspects of this situation. You may access the guide here:

(<https://www.sim.org/documents/25302/4450161/%23PraytoEndCOVID19+-+Prayer+Points.pdf/e49ebb6d-3e8e-502b-9286-9b43f80c34fa>) but I'll pass along the list as I send these updates. The second request is:

Pray for those who are sick, that they will have access to the care and treatment they need. Pray for peace and perseverance amidst suffering. Pray for those in isolation who are cut off from their normal routines and support systems, that they would seek their strength in Jesus. Pray encouragement for the thousands in quarantine, waiting to find out if they have the virus. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." – Psalm 46:1

- If you do not already participate on the prayer chain, contact Bonnie Tackett (417-299-7744 / bonnieanntackett@gmail.com) so that she can begin sending you weekly requests from our service and timely requests during the week.