



April 24, 2020

Dear Bethany Family & Friends:

2 Corinthians 8 speaks about 3 churches whose people were in extreme trial. Out beyond the despair that marked these moments for these early Christians was an alternative life fully bodied in Jesus. A life of new gifts and *new beginnings* grounded in divine forgiveness and sustained by generosity. Verse 5 is the most striking part (from THE VOICE translation):

*We were so overwhelmed—none of us [Apostles] expected their reaction to the trials—that the Church truly turned their lives over to the Lord and then gave themselves to support us in our work as we answer the call of God.*

The churches were stressed by circumstances, yet they “welled up in rich generosity” (v. 2). Like the churches described in Corinth, we want to encourage you to remain engaged. Let us not disengage with the Lord nor with generosity.

Let’s remember to give to our neighbor — generosity is a trait that marks the covenant-people! During this time, more than ever, we want to impact our community and our world with the gospel of Jesus.

I want you to know that we have many new households that are now giving online since this season started. This is excellent. Your generosity continues to help service and ministry happen...when the rest of the world presses *pause*, the Church presses **play!** **Thank you!**

**But we need your financial help or the church will have to make significant changes.** We know that many of you are impacted by what’s going on; many work in industries that are heavily impacted, which impacts our giving. We don’t know your situation, but we would like to!

**If you need prayer,** our prayer team prays every Wednesday evening at 5 PM on a conference call. We’d love to know how we can be praying for you and your loved ones. Please call the church office or email us at [info@bethanyonline.net](mailto:info@bethanyonline.net)

**Would you pray about standing in the gap financially in a significant way for the next 3-4 months, as you are able?**

Here are ways to give your faithful tithes and offerings:

1. **Give Online.** Visit our website and click GIVE. Having trouble? Simply call the church office or email us, and a staff person is happy to walk you through how to give online.

2. **Drop it off.** We have someone in the office Monday-Wednesday from 9 AM to noon! Please call the Church Office at (626) 962-8501 and we’ll have one of our friendly staff meet you with a protective mask! You don’t even need to get out of the car!

3. **Mail it in.** We pick up our mail every day and this is a great time to mail a check. To make it easy, let us know and we’ll even send you self-addressed stamped envelopes!

4. **Door-to-Door Pick Up.** One of our friendly staff will come and pick up your offering from your front door. This can be a no-contact or low-contact option! Please call the church office or email us at [info@bethanyonline.net](mailto:info@bethanyonline.net) if this works best for you.

5. **FAMILY FIELD TRIP (after watching our Worship Service online):** Many churches are asking members to jump in the car after the online service and drive by the Church. So we will have volunteers there (wearing masks) on Sunday from 11:45-12:30:

- **Collecting offering** via cash or check
- **Children’s Ministry leaders will be handing out a craft** to do at home with mom and dad
- **Community Outreach Team** will also be collecting any food items you can donate for the community

*The faithful Savior intends that in a world marked by despair,  
grateful people will live differently.  
A people who will practice endless generosity—sharing without grudge.*  
Adapted from Old Testament Professor Walter Bruggemann in *Gospel of Hope*, 145.

**We miss you, we love you and we are praying for you!**

Grace & Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ,

PASTOR DOUG & PASTOR BRANDON

