



December 9, 2020

Dear Bethany Family,

What a year! First we'd like to give glory to God for his presence, which never wavers, and for you, our faithful church family, for your partnership in ministry. In a year of challenges *we prioritize thanking God for his blessings as a discipline that brings hope*, and we believe that hope will pull us through this difficult season. *"Hope does not disappoint"* (ROM. 5:5)!

There are three things you must know about this season – and three reasons we are asking you to support Bethany with a “over-and-above” gift by December 31st.

1. **The Bethany community is resilient.** 2020 has been a year like no other. Challenges. Uncertainties. Closures. Lock-downs. Tensions. Divisions. Without question, the church and the world need more people who respond to challenges with grace, wisdom and faith. Your gift ensures that our ministries can continue equipping people to live in gospel ways. Because of Jesus, *“we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out!”* (2 Cor. 4:9, J.B. PHILLIPS).
2. **The Bethany community is needed.** Although still in mourning from the closure of our beloved WCCS, Bethany still responds to unique Kingdom-needs. First, we've been renting our outdoor worship venue to *Iglesia Sobrenatural* for a month. They are deeply grateful for our hospitality! Second, we are in negotiations with a Christian school to rent our classroom space beginning early next year. This ministry partnership will help offset expenses for maintaining our 10.5 acre campus, while also allowing us to continue impacting new generations. Additionally, we are signing a “bridge” loan to help us maintain our financial commitments over the next two and a half months, until we receive our first rent payment. Bethany is needed in West Covina, and your gift supports our community.
3. **The Bethany community is in God's hands – and yours.** Between now and the end of December we have a gap to fill in order to provide basic payroll and healthcare to our committed staff, keep up with a backlog of bills, and keep vital ministries going. God is faithful. Always. This year, even more than usual, Bethany depends on your gifts to meet the needs.

We never want to alarm folks whenever we face financial challenges. But our situation is urgent. We realize our need to be more transparent as we move forward.

We need your help.

We have an urgent and immediate need of \$70,000 to cover December's basic budget expenses.

**So we are asking each of our members and regular attenders at Bethany to give a special one-time gift.** Some of you may be able to give \$10,000. Others, \$2,500. Others, \$500. Still others, \$100. We also realize that this may be a challenge for some, but please give your best, and we will continue praying that God will bless you abundantly.

We believe our current struggle is not a glimpse of our future. We are hopeful of great things to come as we seek to serve and to love our community in Jesus' name, and are beginning the process of restructuring the way we do ministry. We would love for you to continue partnering in our mission: **BETHANY EXISTS TO LOVE!**

Grace & Peace,

Roy Romero ... *on behalf of the Board of Deacons*