

The Banner

The Lord is My Banner. Exodus 17:15

March 26, 2020

First Baptist Church, Cuero

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Note From The Pastor

Dr. Glenn E. Robertson, Sr. Pastor

This Present Tribulation

Tribulation Meanings: Trial, suffering, distress, difficulty, trouble, hardship, problem, misery

Here we are in our own kind of tribulation dealing with this Corona Virus. When thinking about "tribulation" many theologians focus on the Great Tribulation and the events of the end times, while ignoring the reality that Christianity has been in a Tribulation for some time. Christians are routinely being persecuted and killed throughout the world. Now our Western civilization has been besieged by a virus that some are saying is not a normal strain of virus. Dealing with this virus has put a real strain on all the Western nations. Italy has suffered greatly and still having high daily death rates. Infections are growing across the U.S., with some deaths. Many people are losing their jobs or being forced to not work, which means they will not have income to pay their bills. This issue is far greater than whether or not church can meet on Sundays. At some point, our nation is going to have to get on with business and life and deal with this disease as a normal part of life. There is a hope that some common drugs that treat malaria and other diseases will have the power to defeat this virus. In the meantime, we need to keep praying and working together as a church and as a community to keep ourselves healthy and financially solvable. We need to engage in daily business in spite of this disease.

We had our first live stream service last Sunday. We will do the same this Sunday. We will try to make some adjustments so the service can be better. We forgot to get the sermon recorded so we could post it on the web page. We will try to get it this Sunday. Thank you for all of your positive comments. We want to keep our church connected in this distress.

Please do not forget that our church depends on your gifts to be able to function. We must still pay our bills, pay our staff salaries and pay our loan. Giving is a function of worship. As you worship with us, make ready your gifts. You may send your gifts in by mail to P.O. Box 803, Cuero, Texas 77954. You may give online through our web page on the donation tab. We use PayPal. Or, if you do online banking, you can have your bank send in a payment directly to our church.

The staff and other leaders are trying to do some alternate ministries to help us stay connected.

- Wednesday evenings at 6 PM I will have a live stream devotion.
- This Sunday evening at 6 PM I will do a live stream Bible study. Until we can meet together to continue the study on the Shroud of Turin, I have decided to give a Bible study on Revelation.
- Larry is still prepping for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter - if we are able to have these services. If we cannot meet as a congregation, we will have these services by live stream. I will have the deacons and staff distribute the supper cups to the homes for Good Friday service.
- Steven is having student meetings via Zoom (computer video).
- Ray Reese is giving his Sunday School class an overview of the lesson via live stream.
- One Bible study is using Facebook Group and meeting by Facetime.
- There are ways you can connect. It is time to be creative and explore new opportunities. Church is not shut down by the virus. We are still working for the Lord.
- How about praying for each other by name while you have down time? Just mention every name before the Lord.

In the meantime, we need to keep watching over our flock. The staff is trying to call our members periodically to check in with everyone. I know that some of the Sunday Schools are also contacting the members to make sure everyone has what they need. Those of us who are able should go and shop for our most elderly, so they will not be exposed to this disease. If you are someone you know is in a critical need, please call the office. Our mission team will be able to help us respond.

We are living in unusual days. Our nation has faced hard days in the past. I pray that these hardships cause us to grow stronger in faith in the Lord. I pray that our love for one another will also grow stronger as we serve one another in Christ.

Tune in to our live streams at <https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchcuero>, if you do not have facebook account just click on **not now** if something pops up.

Be blessed,
Pastor Glenn

Larry's Notes

Pastor of Music & Worship



MINISTRY IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

There is a novel, and if I am not mistaken, that was also adapted into a film, entitled “Love in the Time of Cholera.” I have no idea what this book/movie is about, but the title is very memorable. Well, for the past several weeks, and for some time yet to come, we are doing “Ministry in the Time of Coronavirus.”

I tell young people that school is easier than real life. I have done a lot of both, so I believe I have enough perspective to speak on it. In school, you know what the subject is, you know what has been covered, you know when the exams are, and you know the date when it will end. You get none of that in real life. In real life, we have no idea what is going on, when the tests are coming, what’s on the tests, and when any of this will end.

Ministry in the time of coronavirus is certainly a test and we don’t know when this crisis will end. It may also bring permanent changes to our lives that we haven’t anticipated. It just really hard to know what to do, or if there is really much we can do.

There is another perspective. Through the eyes of faith, we remember that our God is much bigger than any crisis. Natural or economic disasters do not rattle the Lord. He holds the future and He is all powerful and all knowing. He loves us.

The Church, the worldwide people of God, will remain healthy and active until our Lord returns to take us home. We, FBC Cuero, will continue to be a church, the local branch of those who call on the name of the Lord. We will declare the Gospel, teach, worship, and minister. We will find ways to adapt to the new environment. The Holy Spirit will strengthen us and guide us.

I will be honest with you. The uncertainty of the current situation is a challenge for me. I am the most comfortable with routine. Now, I am finding that everyday is a completely new day and has to be thought through to make the most of it. Ministry (and life) in the time of coronavirus can be stressful. I have to remind myself to continue to look to the Lord. Jesus is at the right hand of the throne of God. I am in His hands.

We are all in His hands. God is eternal. Ministry in the time of coronavirus is merely temporary.

Note from Steven:

Pastor of Youth & Family

Notes of Encouragement

Our students had an online bible study last night in an effort to grow in our faith together. Students received a message titled “What to Do When Life Doesn’t Make Sense” based on Romans 12:12 “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” (ESV) What a great message for all of us! We are blessed with a hope in the eternal, Almighty Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, who is STILL seated on His throne in the heavenlies, far above all powers, dominions, rulers, authorities, and might I add VIRUSES. We have an everlasting hope that Christ Jesus will one day wipe away every tear, remove every sorrow, take away all sadness and sickness, rid us of all pain or evil, and He will make all things new. My friends, let us rejoice in the hope of God Almighty, for He will not fail, He must prevail!

Notes

The students will have an opportunity to have Sunday School and Sunday night bible study this Sunday online at the regular times. Stay tuned for more information regarding previously scheduled activities in April and May. Our plant sale went very well, even with the uncooperative weather, as the students were able to raise over \$1000 towards summer camp. Thank you to all of you who braved the frigid temperatures to help support our students! Students stay safe and use this time to grow closer to Jesus. I love y’all!

PRAYER REQUEST

Charles Benton	Bertha Buch
Rory Henry	Bernice Hargrove
Lee Tillman	Betty Whitten
Glenn Portis	Pearl Kornfurehrer
Barbara Bowman	Lori Robertson
Mary Wood	Mary Bird
Chester Wallace	Colby Spencer
	Vic Hoffman

Stewardship

March 22, 2020

Budget Requirements	10,676.54
Budget Receipts	7,616.30
Designated Receipts	2,717.00
Requirements Year To Date	128,118.48
Received Year To Date	112,045.70
Month To Date Expenses	42,417.30
Year To Date Expenses	120,206.36

Renovation

Week To Date Giving	325.00
Month To Date Giving	6,861.23
Year To Date Giving	33,902.73
Monthly Note Payment	11,583.95
Loan Balance	1,964,717.42

DON'T FORGET TO TITHE

**Tithing may be done on line
@ <https://fbccuero.org/give>**

**Bill Pay through your bank,
or mail to P.O. Box 803
Cuero, TX 77954**



Sunday

Worship

Until further notice we will be live

<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchcuero>

We are here to be and make real followers of Jesus Christ



March 29 - April 4

Nikki Weber - 29
Miranda Adams - 31
Kelly Stock - 1
Travis Young - 1
Kelle Stanfill - 2

VBS ANNOUNCEMENT

Volunteer now!

**VBS TRAINING
May 27 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

VBS will be here before you know it. If you need to place an order from Oriental Trading please notify me in the church office by April 30 so we can try to coordinate orders and not double up where unnecessary.

Deacon of the Week

March 29, 2020

Zed Stewart