

Ryan Herring Report.. May 8, 2020

To the elders at Oaks West,

I received your support just before the start of May. I thank God for the additional help that I am blessed to receive for your diligent efforts for the Lord in Burnett. My family continues to be blessed with financial stability and excellent health.

The brethren here at Schultz lane have also been blessed with financial security and good health. None of us have lost jobs or become sick, despite most of the members being at high risk. I learned recently that we have a sister, Nancy Rutherford, working in one of the labs testing for the virus and has been exposed, yet she and her family are doing very well. Your prayers for the Rutherford's continued safety would be greatly appreciated.

We, like many congregations, made the choice to stop the public assembly for worship for a time. Initially we encouraged the brethren to worship at home and I provided a live stream, or recorded version, of my sermon. In the middle of April we began to provide a "virtual" service via Zoom and eventually moved to WebEx. This was done on Sunday for worship and Wednesday for a short service. I was also able to begin a study in Philippians via YouTube.

Last week we met in person for one service on Sunday at 10:30 AM for the first time since March 15th. Though it was a small number, it was greatly encouraging and uplifting to be with one another again, even if only for a short time. One morning service is all we will hold until the next phase is reached around May 18th. We want to be ready to pull back as easily as possible if the virus rebounds. Our high risk population has been advised to stay in, but the men and I have decided that we will not turn anyone away. Last Saturday we rearranged the auditorium, the benefit of having chairs instead of pews, to accommodate the 6' distancing guidelines.

Hope and I are in need of your prayers, as I know so many parents are. We have been balancing her job, Carson's school work, and keeping Daniel (our Trash Panda) out of things. So far we are doing well, but I know there are many like us who feeling this strain. As best as we can, we have tried to get them outside and find outlets for their energy. We continue to pray for all families who are attempting to balance this new normal with their children.

I have been deep in prayer that God will bless our nation with relief so that we can begin to heal from this trial. We are far from out of the woods. There are a great many people that have lost loved ones, jobs, their health and will be suffering physically and mentally for some time. I pray that as children of God we can see the opportunity to bring the peace that surpasses all understanding that is guarded by our living savior, Jesus Christ.

I will continue to pray for all of you and your families continued health. I look forward to the day that we can see one another in person again.  
Your brother in Christ,

Ryan Herring