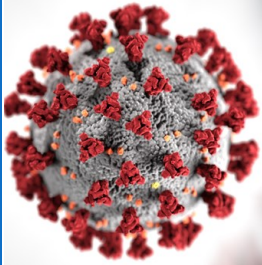


# Your

APRIL / MAY 2020



**COVID-19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

On Sunday, March 29, 2020, President Trump had earlier described an imaginary scene of full church pews on Easter Sunday. Due to the continued growth of the virus, this will not take place and the Federal Guidelines for social distancing and other mitigation measures will remain in place through April 30. The Tri-State area, in which BRBA operates in, will continue to follow the guidelines in place by the government within our country and their specific state Governor.

The **CARES Act** was signed into law on Friday, March 27, 2020 which provides up to \$2 trillion dollars in assistance for small businesses, non-profits (including churches and Associations), to preserve employment of employees during the COVID-19 crisis, .

Thank you to Director of Missions Larry Steen, Mid-Maryland Association for the following summary of how churches can receive the **CARES Act** funding.

- **Benefits to the church:** The act provides a one-time **forgivable loan** to a church in the amount of 2.5xs the average monthly **payroll** based on **FTEs**. Example: Annual payroll \$120,000. Monthly payroll + \$10,000. Loan amount = \$25,000.
- **Within the next 3 months, your church is qualified to receive a grant of 2.5 times one month's payroll expense as a FORGIVEABLE loan from the Small Business Association.** The loan is forgivable (does not need to be repaid) so long as you do not lay off employees between now and the end of June.
- **You need to apply for this loan quickly** – there are millions of small businesses that will be applying. **Thom Rainer recommends going through a company such as Cheney and Associates to apply for this “Forgivable loan.” Steve Chaney and Associates** is already geared up to handle the application process and can put your application in the front of the line. Rainer asserts he can, save you time, headaches and perhaps money. Cost. \$275 deposit, \$425 total for a church with 0-5 employees. To sign up: Chayne Associates: <https://rainer.chaneyassociates.com/cares-act1585514223891> (An MMBA pastor says you can try to go through the process yourself by going online to SBA.Gov.; not sure how difficult or time consuming this route would be.)
- **Are There Government Strings Attached? Is this an Ethical Issue or a Stewardship Issue?:** Strings? – Only two - the conditions listed above for making the loan forgivable. The Government makes no requirements about what we can or cannot preach. Ethical – the government has shut us down for public health reasons, not religious reasons. The Government wants to keep people safe and employed through the crisis, and the **CARE Act** is designed to help that.
- **I encourage ALL CHURCHES to check the replay of Thom Rainer's webinar <https://my.demio.com/recording/yVenCdmA>.** Below is a link for the slideshow from the webinar; these will help explain everything you need to know [https://church-answers.s3.amazonaws.com/Webinar+Slides/Front+of+the+Line+\(4\).pdf](https://church-answers.s3.amazonaws.com/Webinar+Slides/Front+of+the+Line+(4).pdf)
- **Help your Church Members:** This same information can be shared with church members who are small business owners if they wish to apply for one of these loans through Chaney and Associates.

## **“A MESSAGE FROM YOUR D.O.M”**

When traditional life is altered, stress quickly follows. We're comfortable in our daily routines and enjoy the rhythms and conveniences of modern-day living. Unmet expectations can bring frustrations and anxiety.

There's no question we're in a difficult season and sailing uncharted waters. Lately, it seems like bad news continues to flow with each new newscast. Yet, the Lord remains in full and complete control.

For perspective, I want to walk you through a nearly impossible situation the early Church found itself in almost 2,000 years ago. The early Christian Church was marked by suffering, specifically persecution, but also plagues and disease that indiscriminately ravaged populations.

One of the deadliest pandemics occurred between AD 249 and 262, where up to 5,000 people in Rome were dying – per day. While many non-Christians concentrated on saving only themselves, it was the Christians who remained and served those who were suffering. They made a tremendous impact. In fact, some believe their heroism was rewarded in the form of those servants being able to build up personal immunity to the disease.

A similar scenario occurred a century later, and Julian, the Roman emperor at the time, lamented that the church's growth was due to Christians' "benevolence to strangers, their care for the graves of the dead, and the pretended holiness of their lives." Emperor Julian of Rome was disgusted, not entirely by their charity and sacrifice – but by the absence of a equivalent bravery and loving care from his own people. "For it is a disgrace that...the impious Galileans [Christians] support not only their own poor but ours as well," he said.

The current coronavirus crisis we find ourselves in may not rise to the level of what the early Christian Church faced. And I am not suggesting believers need to flood hospitals to help, but each of us has to ask God: "What do you want ME to do during this unprecedented health crisis?"

In the BLUE RIDGE ASSOCIATION we have believers from our churches that are checking on the elderly who live nearby, furnishing lunches to local hospital workers, running errands for those in need, picking up groceries or prescriptions for friends and neighbors. What can you do to help someone in need during this time of uncertainty?

Of course – there are those among us who can't do much because of being highly vulnerable to this virus...those who need special care and protection. Those who must confine themselves as much as possible.

I do believe though, that the comparison to the early Church is helpful because it reminds us that terrible times should not slow us down or impede the mission of our ministry that is ordained by God to bring the Gospel to a hurting world. As this COVID-19 pandemic moves forward with many twists and turns, may we model the same courageous and sacrificial attitude shown by our brothers and sisters in the early church.

We ARE ALL in this together, and we'll all get through it together. Please don't hesitate to let BRBA know how we can assist you and your church family in the weeks and months ahead. Lastly - please join me in praying for a miraculous and positive turn of events in this unprecedented global crisis.

Rev. Bruce M. Conley  
Director of Missions

### **ONLINE Giving through BRBA Website**



BRBA has setup the LifeWay online giving program to show a live example of what it looks like - should your church decide to use this **FREE** resource as part of a planned response to COVID-19 and people not being able to bring their tithes to the churches.

<https://give.idonate.com/blue-ridge-baptist-association/give>

*“Each person should do as he has decided in his heart — not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 CSB*

The following BRBA Churches are providing Live Streaming of their services. To view the service, type this link into your web browser and enjoy! Some Live Streams allow you to participate with the viewers by leaving comments (i.e. Facebook Live).

**The below links are also posted on our Facebook Page and BRBA website.**



**Battlefield Bible:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Battlefieldbiblechurch/videos/>

**Berkeley Baptist:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/BerkeleyBaptistChurch/videos/>

**Buck Valley:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/BuckValleyChristianChurch/videos>

**Covenant:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/experiencecovenant/videos> **OR**  
<http://covenantexperience.com/live-stream/>

**Emmitsburg:** <https://emmitsburgcbc.org/sermons/>

**Faith:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/faithknoxville/videos/>

**Fellowship:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/fellowshipsbc/videos/>

**First Brunswick:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/firstbrunswick/videos/>

**First Frederick:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstFrederick/videos/>

**First Thurmont:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstBaptistChurchThurmont/videos>

**Hagerstown Church:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/HagerstownChurchMD/videos/>

**Harvest Pointe:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/HarvestPointeCommunityChurch/videos>

**Home Church:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/homechurchmd/videos>

**Lakeview Church:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/LakeviewChurchMD/videos>

**New Hope Church:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/NewHopeWV/videos/>

**New Life:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/NLCCWV/videos/>

**NorthStar:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mynorthstar/videos/>

**Paramount:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUd11zHuQneOSAlnKNz7Cbw>

**Pleasant Valley:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PVBC1/videos/>

**Smithsburg Valley:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/smithsburgvalleychurch/videos/?>

**South End:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/sebcfrederick/videos>

**Summit Trace:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/SummitTraceChurch/videos>

**Surrender Christian Fellowship:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/surrendercfc/videos>

**Third Day:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0IP3oCstf8anfSnb57Rtug>

**West End Baptist Church:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/westendbaptistchapel/videos/>

## IN THE CHURCHES



**NORTH VALLEY CHURCH**

Pastor Dan Housam reports: The Welcome Center renovation is under way where guests and attendees can connect before and after services. Social media is also getting off of the ground with a new website and email. We have had our first person ask to be baptized...Whoop! I will be attending NAMB Replant training in March. Besides equipping myself for NVC, my DOM, Bruce Conley, has asked me to be a resource to other churches in our association (Blue Ridge Baptist Association) who are entering the replant / revitalize process. My training and my experience at Myersville Baptist / North Valley will equip me to help other churches as they go through the replant process. Exciting stuff. God is on the move at NVC. So many things are coming together, including you. Your prayers, participation, and provision provide the fuel for these things to be happening. If you are interested in more information on how you might be able to participate or provide for our replant, please let me know.



**West End Chapel Church** in Hagerstown continues to do retrofitting of the old Winter Street School as the building is turned into a church and ministry center. Does YOUR church have folks that have skills that could be used to help West End out? Their goal is to have the worship center and some added space complete by Easter 2020.



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**Hagerstown Church**  
in celebrating **1 year Anniversary!**



**New Hope Church** Inwood, WV  
is now under roof!!! GOD is GOOD!



### PASTOR FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS

These gathering will still take place on the **1st Wednesday** of the Month; however, the location will be live on Zoom Meetings. Due to the global crisis, this will take place for April and May, then reassess again for June.

If you are interested in participating, please email [karen@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:karen@blueridgebaptist.org) **NO LATER THAN 9:00a Monday before breakfast** . Once we have your name, an email invitation will be sent to you with login information to the Zoom Meeting.



**Due to the global crisis,**  
**ALL EVENTS for**  
**April and May, on the BRBA Calendar,**  
**are canceled until further notice!**

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Seasonal Groundskeeping Position**  
**Skycroft Conference Center ~ Middletown, MD**  
Summer Job; Pay is \$11/hour; if interested email Jim McBride at [jmcbride@skycroft.org](mailto:jmcbride@skycroft.org).

# Prayer Request

How can we pray for you?

\* Southern Baptist Disaster Relief to fill the gaps in crucial wraparound services for elderly and vulnerable people across our nation.

\* BCM/D's DR Director, Ellen Udovich, and the other DR leadership teams that are forming for response across the nation.

\* Niel Augustine (former youth director at Paramount Church) will be having cancer surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore on Monday, April 6th. Please pray for Niel and his wife Charlene.

\* Rev. Tom Smith will be going to Johns Hopkins Hospital on April 9th to have a surgical procedure to address cancerous tumors that are growing in his liver. Please pray for Pastor Tom and his wife Susan. Tom is also on the wait list for a liver transplant.

\* Pray for the Health Care Workers ~ pray the Lord would protect and strengthen those who are literally in harm's way as they serve the public in their respective jobs. Pray that needed equipment and supplies will make it in their hands in time.

\* Pray for Students & Families ~ pray for students who are out of school, and their families, that the Lord would give them patience and discipline.

\* Pray for Our Leaders ~ pray for national and local government leaders, that they would have wisdom to do what is best for all.

\* Pray for the Unemployed ~ pray for those who have lost work, that God would provide through their families and communities.

\* Pray for the Vulnerable ~ pray for those who are especially vulnerable to disease, that the sickness would pass over them and that they would rely on others for help.

\* Pray for the Sick ~ pray for those already affected by the COVID-19 virus the Lord will heal and comfort them and their families.

\* Pray for Churches ~ pray for the government restrictions and adverse effects to churches nationwide that have to temporarily suspend worship services and gatherings. Pray the ministry leaders would know how to best show the love of Christ in this time.

***"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful." JOHN 14:27***



## Help Center

The challenge for all churches is obviously to be creative to keep the wheels of ministry in motion during COVID-19.

***BRBA is available to assist our churches in any way possible to ensure that you are fulfilling your mission.***

### Teaching/Discipleship Resources:

- \* **Lifeway** is providing digital prayer, devotional and teaching resources to help continue services with your church members.
- \* **Minno Kids** has provided some free videos and content for children.
- \* **The Bible Project** has great free videos and other resources for all ages.
- \* **The Gospel Coalition** has sent out a link for video classes they have posted.

### Online Giving:

- \* **Lifeway** is offering online giving assistance; BRBA is currently working to utilize this service available on BRBA site in April.

### Live Streaming:

- \* 90% of BRBA Churches are Live Streaming with Worship, Bible Studies, Meetings, etc...they are using different formats like Facebook, Zoom, etc...

***For anyone needing help setting up Online Giving or Live Streaming, help is available through the services of Phil Graves, [phil@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:phil@blueridgebaptist.org).***

The Annie Armstrong offering was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union® (WMU) to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). In 1934, it was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a bold missions advocate and WMU's first national executive leader. Today, **more than \$1 billion** has been **donated** by Southern Baptist churches and individuals.



The week of Prayer took place on March 1-8, 2020. Prayer is the fuel enabling God to spiritually and emotionally sustain missionaries in places where the gospel is greatly needed, but often opposed. This year's **National Goal is \$70 million** and **SBCV's Goal is \$1.4 million** with 100% of all donations going directly into the Mission Fields.

Through your gifts to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** and the **Cooperative Program**, NAMB supports more than 5,000 missionaries and more than 3,800 chaplains who serve in difficult places where the gospel is often not welcome.

Should you need more resources for your church, please visit this link <https://www.anniearmstrong.com/resources/>.



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