

Your

JUNE / JULY 2020

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS:

With all of the political posturing that is going on - it's hard to know what to do, and how to accomplish safe re-opening for our churches to once again assemble together. As your Director of Missions, I want to challenge you to trust the leaders that God has provided for your church family in this time of uncertainty. Pastors - pay more attention to your heart than any elected official. Listen to your people. Hear their concerns. Many of you have already spent weeks - if not months analyzing what will be most beneficial for YOUR church's specific needs. **TRUST THE PROCESS YOU ARE ALREADY IN!!!** The Holy Spirit of God is not only our comforter, but I know He will aid you as you strive to do what is best to protect your people and honor God.

You are an autonomous church within the SBC. You get to decide for yourself how to proceed. We recommend that you study the new CDC guidelines for houses of worship that was released May 22, 2020. Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.../faith-based.html>.

Pray for God's guidance and wisdom. I am not aware of one church in BRBA that has made a rushed or reckless decision in regards to the re-opening of their church. I trust the leaders in your church to make carefully reasoned strategic decisions that ultimately will help your church reopen safely. My prayer is that God's guidance might be clear to you as you continue to shepherd some very precious saints of God!

BRBA is blessed to be able to help during this crisis by providing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for our churches. Should you find the need for PPE, please email Karen at karen@blueridgebaptist.org and we will do our best to provide as we can. Our initial order covered:

- * Individual Hand Sanitizers
- * Gloves
- * Face Shields
- * 4-ply Surgical Masks
- * KN95 Masks
- * No contact thermometers

As long as we are able, we will replace stock as needed and provide these items to our churches. Please let us know what your needs are for PPEs. The BRBA team stands ready to assist you with any needs you may have during this season of our ministry lives!

Rev. Bruce M. Conley
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Various churches within our association have scheduled a soft reopening for public assembly over the next four weeks beginning Memorial Day weekend through Father's Day 2020. Please check your local church website to gain more information on reopening. The churches have safety precautions and social distancing plans in place.

Some steps to keep in mind when reopening:

- ◆ practice social distancing of 6' or better
- ◆ use Personal Protection Equipment (masks, etc.)
- ◆ take steps to sanitize the church facility before and after



IN THE CHURCHES



Covenant Church in Shepherdstown has been busy during this COVID-19 crisis. They are offering FREE Pre-Packaged Meals on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 11-1p in 3 locations: Covenant Church, Apple Tree Garden Apartments in Ranson and Southern States in Ranson.

Not only have they been serving meals, they also held a Blood Drive on May 11 from 2-7p.



Pleasant Valley Baptist Church has been busy making sock masks. They have handed them out at several locations in Maryland. Free demonstrations were available on how to one. The bag had their contact information along with God truly loves you and we do too. We don't want you catching the flu.

PVBC also provides an active Food Bank within their church. This has received a tremendous turnout during our current crisis. Ron Pitts shared on April 18th via Facebook, they had the highest number of people in two years.



The **Buck Valley Christian Church** Family "doing life together" as they went in a parade to several families in need of encouragement! This is how family loves each other!



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



The State of Maryland has sent Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to every Co. Health Dept. in the state. The PPE will be then distributed to different departments. The SBC Disaster Relief will be the point of contact for health care providers to senior citizens under the Dept. of Aging in every county in Maryland. SBC Disaster Relief workers will distribute the PPE equipment to the health care providers. In Washington County Brother Clayton Clark, Ron Pitts and Cheryl Gates will be coordinating this effort. PG, Montgomery and west Baltimore City are the highest need areas. If you live in these areas and would like to Volunteer please contact Ellen at eudovich@bcmd.org.



Prayer Request

How can we pray for you?

** It is with a heavy heart that we let you know that Kevin Marsico's (Pastor of Northstar Church) brother, Brian Marsico, passed away May 13th. Kevin reports that it was peaceful transition and his brother is now pain free and with Jesus. Please pray for Paul and Irene Marsico as well as the entire family as they mourn this loss.*

** Pray for Pastor Thom Smith - who just underwent a fourth TASE procedure at John's Hopkins Hospital for a new tumor that has doubled in size in the last five weeks. Pray that he will be able to successfully avoid Covid-19 and that a transplant organ will soon be found for his fight against liver cancer.*

** 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.*

LifeWay creates Church Assistance Package

In an online article written May 5, 2020, as churches adjust to ministry in a post-COVID-19 world, LifeWay has developed a collection of resources to help congregations.

The new Church Assistance Package from LifeWay is available for any congregation around the world and can be accessed at lifeway.com/churchassistance.

"LifeWay wants to do everything we can to help churches sustain their vital ministries during this time," said Ben Mandrell, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. "Because of this, we have been working on solutions for supporting local churches as they seek to grow together as disciples during this season and walk with them as they begin rebounding."

The Church Assistance Package includes:

- A \$100 credit applied to new and existing LifeWay church billing accounts
- A \$100 credit toward resources from LifeWay Worship
- Free access to the Generosity by LifeWay digital giving platform and discounts on related resources
- Free access to select Bible study teaching videos for small groups
- A 50% off promotional code for a future Broadman Church Supplies order for churches ordering Broadman supplies from lifeway.com for the first time in 12 months
- Free digital access to summer ongoing curriculum for churches when they purchase ongoing curriculum for their groups
- Free eBook access and special bulk pricing for select B&H book titles

These items included in the package were aimed at helping congregations meet basic ministry needs as they start gathering again.



Volunteer opportunities



Maryland/Delaware Disaster Relief has several opportunities for church members to serve vulnerable senior citizens living alone and in need of assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Baptist Convention of Maryland /Delaware and their partner Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) member organizations have received the request to provide hundreds of volunteers across the state to support “Caregivers Service Corps” (CSC), a new initiative. This new caregiving program is designed to help senior adults living alone, especially those whose normal family caregivers are unable or reluctant to come into their homes for fear of spreading the COVID-19 virus to their loved ones.

The caregiving program is spearheaded by the Maryland Department of Aging, in close cooperation with the state and county health departments. Trained medical volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corps will be making home visits to provide medical evaluations and determine if other supportive services are needed to keep that senior adult safe and well at home. BCM/D will be providing the volunteer management for the many volunteers from VOAD partner organizations who will be mobilizing to supply some of those other “supportive services.”

There are two types of Volunteers needed for this outreach:

1. Support volunteers who will remain outside and provide deliveries of food, prescriptions, etc
2. Support volunteers who will distribute PPE kits (personal protective equipment) to medical volunteers serving senior adults

If you wish to volunteer, sign up at dart-md.communityos.org.



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