

Greetings Redemption Hill Family –

I am praying for you to know God’s grace and peace in this challenging time. Between the election and all the dynamics surrounding COVID, not to mention personal challenges, this is a particularly stressful season. We know God is good and gracious, and ultimately in control, but our day-to-day journey is hard.

To keep us all connected, here is an update about two key opportunities to make a difference in the world, and two answers for questions many have.

First, the opportunities:

- This week we launch our **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox ministry! More details will come on Sunday and through social media, but I want to emphasize what a great way this is to serve needy families and spread the gospel. So many outreaches are limited right now, but OCC is a wide open opportunity. Families, life groups, friend groups and individuals can all participate. Ask God to make a big impact through this ministry this year.
- Thanksgiving is around the corner. We often collect food for families in need, but this is not an option during the pandemic. This year we are collecting names of people who are in need **and we will distribute gift cards to buy groceries and other essentials**. You can participate by telling us of people who would be blessed by this (email names to Nancy Marriott: NMarriott@rhchurches.com). You can also give to our benevolence fund to help us be generous.

Now the questions:

- **What happens to our lawn service if it rains?** We are so grateful for the opportunity to gather on the lawn at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday, but as the weather changes, this could be difficult. If the weather is severe enough for us to cancel the service on the lawn we will notify you via email and social media by 8:00 a.m. that morning. Please join us on the lawn when this makes sense for you, but when it doesn’t, please join us online at 11:00 a.m. (through www.RedemptionHC.com or the Redemption Hill facebook page).
- **When will we resume meeting indoors?** We don’t know yet. We are following LA County/California guidelines and they have given no timeline. At the moment indoors is not an option, but when LA County moves to the “Red” category in the Governor’s plan

we will open the 11:00 a.m. live stream service for indoor worship similar to what we had in June. We will give specific details at that time.

Thank you for your ongoing and prayerful patience with this! We are all weary with Pandemic fatigue and struggling with the challenges of physical distancing. We want to show love with a warm hug or handshake, to stand or sit near enough for intimate conversation and to smile encouragingly. The health protocols limit so many important aspects of human interaction and so many of our “normal” means of ministry. It is important for us to love others and especially to love Jesus by cooperating with our government—but it is not easy.

Our overseer team remains committed to helping us honor Jesus first and foremost in everything, and are seeking to be attentive to the needs of our families as we shepherd. Scripture calls for us to willingly obey our leaders when this does not prevent us from following Jesus. The overall health of our church family is a key factor in how we cooperate and we will revisit our position from time to time. Please pray for God’s guidance at each critical decision point.

Different churches have taken different approaches to how they cooperate, just as different individuals and families have. We encourage you to grant each one freedom of conscience before the Lord to do this. The biblical text is clear, but each family and each church must discern with the Spirit’s guidance how it is best applied at any moment. At Redemption Hill, we remain committed to loving God and loving others, to obey our government and not forsake assembling together, and to seeking God’s glory above all else. For this season, bringing all of those together offers particular challenges—but we believe God will bless us and grace us as we humbly meet those challenges.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please start a conversation with any of our overseers. We are blessed to serve with you.

For the Leadership Team,

Pastor Robert