# Together Churches Serving Christ-Together

MARCH 26, 2020

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# From the Associational Missionary's Desk

In these unusual times, believers must act on the truth that our strength is in the LORD, that this is not a surprise to Him, and that we must continue to trust in Him. I read a statement today, in an e-newsletter I receive regularly, that I believe is true. "One of the greatest marks of spiritual progress is that you remain calm in the face of crisis, adversity, danger, and threats." Difficult circumstances contribute to the deepening of our relationship with the LORD. We must intentionally put our trust in Him. We must encourage those around us to do so. We must declare and demonstrate by our conduct the LORD is our very present Help (Psalm 46).

Shelby Baptist Association is continuing to operate, and our Church and Community Ministries continues to serve people. However, we have changed our procedures for interviewing and administering services. We need younger volunteers who are not in the higher risk (60 and older) category.

Currently, we are stocked with goods, but that will may change as the crisis continues and the need for resources increase. Pray for needs to be met.

Churches will face challenges as restrictions on public assembly continue. This will affect churches financially. If you need to set up online giving, LifeWay is providing a free online giving platform (<a href="https://lifewaygenerosity.com">https://lifewaygenerosity.com</a>). I can also point you to others who can give assistance in setting up digital giving.

Many are taking advantage of Facebook Live and Zoom to broadcast messages and connect with small groups. As someone observed, the LORD may be forcing us to take a sabbatical to focus on our personal relationship to Him and our families. Please contact me or the staff of SBA if you think we may be able to assist during these times. My prayer is that this will result in people turning their hearts to God.

May God be honored, and may we experience the freshness and vitality of His grace during this new reality.

Because of His grace, Hugh Richardson, Jr. Associational Missionary



# **Daily Bread Shop**

Due to the COVID-19 Virus the Daily Bread Shop is experiencing a higher volume of people needing assistance. At this time we are asking for help with all items to fill our food pantry. This includes all non-perishable foods (i.e. canned foods, canned meats, dried goods, condiments, etc.), household cleaning products, and personal hygiene items (i.e. toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo,

etc.). We also need a variety of items for babies and toddlers (i.e. diapers, formula, baby food, snack, etc.)

Contact Keith Brown at kbrown@shelbybaptist.org or (205) 669-7858 for details on a successful food drive.

#### **MARCH**

Community Dunnavant Faith Indian Springs Liberty APRIL
FBC—Columbiana
FBC—Harpersville
FBC—Helena
Fourmile
Northside

### <u>MAY</u>

Aldrich
Antioch—Columbiana
Calera
Chelsea Village
FBC—Alabaster
North Shelby

# ATTENTION: PEOPLE NEEDING ASSISTANCE

We are making appointments to help low-income families and individuals in Shelby County with food. Our food pantry is limited, so we are still interviewing people. The interviews will be conducted over the phone to determine the need. Chaplains will also be available over the phone to pray with those that interview. We have a safety plan in place to limit face-to-face contact, and we are following steps in the ministry center to prevent the spread of germs.

If you know someone truly in need, have them call us during our office hours (Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM & Friday 9 AM to 12 PM) to set up an appointment.

## NO WALK INS—APPOINTMENTS ONLY!

Appointments will be conducted as scheduled:
Monday—Wednesday—Thursday between 9 AM to 11 AM
Tuesday between 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." — Joshua 1:9