



Dear Oak Grove Family,

I pray that this letter finds you in good health. As you know, the COVID-19 virus has become a serious concern and health issue in Texas. While many people are becoming panicked and are increasingly worried, I want to encourage you not to do the same. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8) and He is not surprised by these events. He continues to reign over all the earth including nations, governments, and illnesses. Knowing this gives me confidence that His loving kindness and grace can produce peace during earthly troubles. God's word provides comfort for times just like this:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah" (Psalm 46:1–3, ESV)

"For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah" (Psalm 62:5–8, ESV)

I want to encourage you to see this as an opportunity to share the gospel of Christ through your actions. These are the days of harvest when many people are thinking about life, death, and eternity. As believers we can speak to these topics with a gentle grace that can plant and water the seeds of the gospel. Remember this is not the first time that sickness and disease has spread around the world. We can follow the example of previous Christians who ministered to one another and to others in kindness and love. If you become anxious, pray a prayer of thankfulness and ask for God's peace; He will provide all that you need. (Phil 4:6) I will be praying for you and for our church.

Our deacons met last night to discuss some important topics and our response. We will follow the guidelines as determined by the CDC and our state and local officials regarding group meetings and suggested sterilizing of public spaces. The following information we believe is important for you to know:

1. We will discontinue all services and activities in our church buildings until further notice. This step is being taken to protect the health of our members and guests and to hinder the spread of the virus. I know this seems drastic. I want to quote an email I received from our Director of Missions Tim Randolph.
"As followers of Christ, we have always sought the welfare of those we meet and walk with through life. The Good Samaritan, the Golden Rule, The Great Commandments (Love God and Love your Neighbor), and the mandate from Jesus himself to "heal the sick" (Matthew 10:8). We will want to lead the way - not fight against measures that will keep our neighbors well. Self-isolation and quarantine are not simply measures to keep me well, but rather they are measures to keep my neighbor and friends well."

We are not “cancelling church” nor are we “closing the church,” but rather we are being the church as it was in the New Testament. They didn’t have big buildings with stages and pews. They just met as family units in the houses of the believers. In fact, this disruption might well be the means that God uses to get us out of our ruts and to rediscover our mission and our mandate in this world.”

2. While we will not meet at the church, we will continue to have a service online. We are still working out the details of how we can do this most effectively, but our goal is to make this as interactive as possible. To that end we invite you to join us every Sunday morning at 10:30 for a live meeting. You will be able to do this through our church website. The live feed will continue on Facebook, but our new Online Portal will provide the easiest way to join and interact with us. You will not need to login just click on the link on our webpage www.ogbcs.com
3. One of our deacons will be contacting you in the next week by phone. Our intention is to check on you and your family. Please let us know if you have any needs or concerns. We will do our very best to help. Do not hesitate to contact a deacon or one of the staff if a need arises. You will find a contact list of the staff and deacons on the next page.
4. If you become sick, please stay at home and seek proper medical attention. Contact a deacon or a member of the staff to let us know about your illness so we can discern how to best care for you and your family. If you need food or supplies let us know.
5. The deacons have planned a day to clean and sanitize the church buildings to ensure the health of our church family. If you are well and can attend, please consider helping. We will notify the church by email and text of that date.
6. The office will be open on limited hours for a few weeks. The staff will be working from home. If you need to contact us, please email or contact us on our cell phone. The contact info is on the last page.
7. We still rely on your tithes, offerings, and gifts to make sure the church budget is met. Please consider giving online, mailing a check, or donating by text.

We are praying for you and trust that God will watch over you and your family. May His grace and peace be poured out upon you.

Blessings,

Dennis



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