

## MOURN, LIVE, AND HOPE IN THE VALLEY

By Pastor Doug

C.S. Lewis once said, "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for extraordinary destinies." As we face the hardships and challenges before us with the coronavirus, it's important to remember that God can use all things for good. He is working in your life spiritually and down the road you will share about God's faithfulness and goodness during this pandemic. As I mentioned recently in our Habakkuk series, I see three things going on in my spirit while I wait on God during this time in the valley.

***This is a time of mourning.*** We mourn the loss of life and pray for those infected with the virus. We mourn the loss of our routine – kids going to school, work, church, recreation, date nights, watching a baseball game, and times hanging out with friends. And then there are the big celebrations – birthdays, graduations, retirements, and other major milestones celebrated in community. But most of all, we grieve the loss of spending time with those we love. We long for days where we once again will be able to give a huge hug to our mom or dad and say "I love you" in person.

***Also know that this is a time for living.*** Even while we wait, there is a call from God to live in the present circumstance of life. Yes it is challenging and different. But there is a whole lot of living that can go on in the midst of this storm. What do you control? I can choose to spend time with the Lord each day as I open up His word. I can exercise, play a board game with the kids, call or write a friend that I haven't heard from for a while, and finish some of the home projects that a busy life with no margin postponed. Get at it and live! This is a time to be still and know that He is God! Choose to grow in the Lord, while enjoying a different way of doing life. There are benefits and blessings in the isolation if we choose to look for them.

***Finally, this is a time to hope for better days on the horizon.*** We often say, "This too will pass". This statement reminds us that the challenges we are facing presently will not always be there. Life moves on and with it different chapters in the story that God is writing. God has a plan for us and one day we will move on from this awful, painful pandemic. Hope is what we need right now and God is always able to provide hope when we feel hopeless. Don't live in the valley while ignoring the beauty of a new day. God says, "I got this"! Grow in the Lord while trusting Him for the better days to come. "And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (1 Peter 5:10) Selah! And all the people said, "AMEN!"



*Our Church campus is currently closed. We are closed out of love for our church family and the Medina community. In God's timing we will open our doors once again.*

*Until the doors are open, please join us online every Sunday at the MCC Facebook page or YouTube channel.*

*If you would like to receive our e-news please email Pastor Doug at [dougdavidson@zoominternet.net](mailto:dougdavidson@zoominternet.net)*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE:



### APRIL GIVING

4/05	\$5,299
4/12	\$4,155
4/19	\$3,960
4/26	\$3,260

**Church Giving Update**—Thanks for praying and following through with faithful giving while we are in this temporary closing. Most of you have adjusted to giving through the mail which is greatly appreciated. If you have not given, please consider mailing in your offering to our 416 S. Broadway Street address. It may be a bit slower with snail mail, but it still works to keep us up to date financially. Our value is to keep giving like you normally would do if you were attending a church service. ***Thanks again for the faithful giving while we minister online and are away from our facility.***

**Easter HELPS Offering**—Over \$1,800 was given in April over and above your weekly tithe. Thanks for your generosity!

## THE BIG PICTURE:

**When Will Church Open Again?**—The bottom line . . . we don't know. We're working through as a leadership team what it will look like when we do reopen. It will more than likely require social distancing, masks, and lots of sanitizing in between services. Out of love for our church family, and concern for your well-being, we will remain closed. We will continue to have online messages, worship videos, and zoom small group times for our youth. The church is closed when it comes to in-person worship services, but church and community will continue online. Please keep our Elders in your prayers as we work through what reopening will look like and when. For now, we anticipate the earliest opening will be sometime in June.

**New Website**—Since we have been able to slow down some we are currently working on a new website. It has been a while since we updated so we thought this would be a good time to do so. We already have incorporated a new online giving format and added social media links to the front page of our current website. We also will be looking at how to stream services live and have a good link so if you can't make a service you will still be able to participate.

**Helps Needs**—If you have a financial need and would like some help with groceries or other necessities please do not hesitate to ask. We want to minister to our church family during this challenging time. That's what church families do! We care for one another.



## CONTACT US:



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