



March 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

It has been way too long since we've been together. It's hard to put it into words just how much Sara and I have missed seeing each one of you, and watching you laugh and joke with one another. Wednesdays and Sundays are a good kind of busy, so when I do catch my breath, I like to just stand to the side and watch as you all enjoy the games, the laughter, and the spiritual conversations. It is far too quiet around the church these days.

I long for the days when we can be together again, and I pray that while we are apart -- for good reason -- that each of you is taking advantage of this time to be alone with the Lord and allow Him to speak directly to you. I pray that you and your families are taking time to enjoy one another without the busyness of life intruding on your needed space. And I pray that you are hungry for fellowship! I know I am!!

I hope you've been blessed by the church services streaming online. The church staff are also planning to meet with you via Facebook Live on Wednesdays. That was Joey Kelley's brainchild, and we're so blessed that he has that creative bone! I'm going to see if he'll help me do the same for our students so that we can stay in touch as well.

I'd like to offer you this thought. We've been thrust into a new normal, though we hope that it is temporary -- at least the social-distancing part. When I consider the way we've been ushered into seclusion, it brings to mind the first church, before the Day of Pentecost. Go to Acts 1 and 2, and read for yourself if you would!

The first Christians returned to Jerusalem, after Christ's ascension, where they followed instructions to wait! They waited together in an upper room of a home. This is not unlike what you and your family -- your household of believers -- finds yourself doing today. In that upper room, secluded from the mess and distractions of the outside world, they, "Continued with one accord in prayer and supplication...", (Acts 1:14, NKJV).

Supplication is an interesting word. Very simply, it means to ask for something with humility.

They were obedient. They were unified. They were humbled. Humbled by what they had known firsthand & experienced -- the miracle of a risen Savior! I believe they were also humbled by what they *believed* was very soon to come. Read Acts chapter 2 and you'll see the evidence of their belief manifest itself in an amazing way.

My question for you. How are you taking advantage of this forced quiet time? Are you expecting God to speak *now*? Do you believe that He desires to speak through you at an appointed time, and to a people that at this very moment are experiencing the reality of their lostness through hopelessness?

Dads, moms, and young ones, I urge you not to let this moment pass you by. He's preparing His church!

I do miss each one of you. I pray that God keeps each of you healthy and looking to Him for your security. Reach out to me or Sara and let us know how you're doing. You can email us at [youth.ministry@smithmemorial.org](mailto:youth.ministry@smithmemorial.org), or you can call or text. My number is 757-561-5170, and Sara's is 208-890-9671.

We'd love to hear from you! God Bless,

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Greg Dowell, Jr.', written over a light blue circular stamp.

D. Greg Dowell, Jr.  
SMBC Director of Student Ministries