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April 28, 2020

Dear Cambria Baptist Church Family and Friends,

This has been a trying time for us all. I am thankful for the gracious response to this crisis that you all have demonstrated. Let us continue to hold our positions humbly and graciously, making every effort to love one another as Romans 14 (and 1 Corinthians 8) commands and to strive to obey Hebrews 13:17.

One purpose of this letter is to give a short update on the work of our key missionaries during this time. This crisis has been a worldwide phenomenon. As a result, our missionaries have also been impacted:

Paul and Barbara Frizzell in Bolivia have been under lockdown orders for the past month. During that time, they have prepared sermon videos for their churches, stayed in contact with them through the whatsapp, and participated in several food distributions. Please pray as Bolivia is a poor country. This pandemic has only exacerbated the situation.

Carl and Michelle Gormely in the Philippines have also been in lockdown for the past month. They have focused on ministering to and caring for those within their compound. Physical distancing and law to block the entrance to their compound has limited their ability to minister to those outside their compound. They are using this time for intense discipleship with those they can minister to. Please pray that the people in the Philippines turn to Christ, not to the virgin Mary.

Dan and Sharon Roberts have been under lockdown since the end of February. They have pursued their church through a tape ministry. Dan has been delivering sermon tapes to all he can and ministering to them from a “safe” distance. Japan seems to be ahead of the curve, so they are hoping to open back up soon. Their prayer is that many will be saved as a result of this experience.

Doug and Jana Rogers are back in the states under lockdown. They have been ministering as best they can to their pastors through facetime and video. The concern for the pastors in Latin America is that the majority of them are bi-vocational (meaning they also work another job to pay the bills). Most of them have been laid off. Early this month, we sent \$500 to Doug in order to help care for these pastors. I have attached to this letter the pictures and names of those pastors that received food through these efforts. You can also hear regular updates about his ministry through his YouTube page.

Mark and Holly Woodard have been deeply affected by this crisis. Shortly before the pandemic occurred, several tornados rocked the Nashville area near their home. They began seeking to minister to those in need from that crisis. The COVID-19 crisis has added some challenges. Much of Mark’s current ministry is recruiting young people to spend the summer in Papua New Guinea. As a result, he is required to travel often. That is no longer a possibility at this present time. Further, their plan was to also spend the summer in PNG with the group helping to disciple

the churches there. As Mark is no longer able to travel, they will be unable to take a team out for the summer. They are also unsure of their own ability to travel to PNG this summer. Please pray that God will grant wisdom and clear direction for their ministry throughout this year.

I also wanted to take the time to inform you of what I believe is an exciting development. We have been unable to meet for some time. I know that you are longing for the gathering of the body, as am I. Yet, we must heed the commands to care for the most vulnerable among us (James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:11; Phil. 2:3-4; Matt. 25:34-39) and to honor and submit to our civil authorities (Rom. 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14; Prov. 21:1; Dan. 2:21) as long as they do not command us to violate God's Word. As they have not done this, we continue to submit. Hebrews 10:25 does command us not to forsake meeting together. That word *forsake* (*neglect* in the ESV) is the word *εγκαταλειπωτες* which means to turn one's back on, abandon, or desert. We have not done that, nor is the government asking us to do that. We will meet again.

However, since it appears that the situation will drag on (and has) for some time, we have looked for creative ways to honor our civil authorities while also meeting together. We have decided to schedule a drive-in service for Mother's Day on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The service will take place at 10:30am in the church parking lot. We will set up a stage, from which Cory will lead singing and I will preach using speakers to project the sound. While you will not be able to physically interact with one another, you will be able to see (and hopefully hear) one another. We will have song sheets available for you, as well as a safe way to collect your offerings. For those unable to attend we will record the service and make the service available on our YouTube channel by Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. I will also continue to mail the manuscript to those who are unable watch the YouTube channel.

We would ask several things from you for this drive-in service to work. Please arrive early so that we can organize vehicles in a safe and timely manner. Please note that the service will begin 30 minutes earlier than normal (10:30am) to allow for any unforeseen issues. Please do not approach other vehicles. While some are not concerned with social distancing, others are very concerned with it. We must practice Romans 14 with one another and lovingly care for the other's views. Be aware that, should there be a high chance of inclement weather on May 10<sup>th</sup>, we will make a decision regarding the service by Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

May God bless you and keep you,



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Dear Cambria Baptist Church,



I wanted to let you know that the four pastors and their families received the food that you purchased and are set for the next few months as they shelter in place. Each pastor receives basic cleaning supplies, cooking oil, grains, (1) 80lb sack of rice, (1) 80lb sack of beans, and (1) 70lb sack of corn mill. As you can see by the photos, this should hold them over as the pastors here are very frugal when they cook. The names of the Families that received your food are included with the picture below. These pastors are church planters in the country of Mexico. They are in four separate towns and cities. Please continue to pray for them and once again thank you for making a difference in someone's life even as you yourselves are walking through these unprecedented times. May God bless you abundantly for your sacrificial gift.



The Lara Family



La Purga Baptist Church of La Purga, Mexico



The Vazquez Family



Philadelphia Baptist Church of Cardel, Mexico



The Hernandez Family / Xalapa,



Bible Baptist Church of Xalapa, Mexico



The Llitheras Family / Veracruz



Bible Baptist Church of Veracruz, Mexico