

2020 Senior Pastor's Report

Bethel Missionary Church

I do not believe any of us will forget this year or about how challenging it was. I know we all struggled to adjust and adapt to a new way of living our lives. We all hoped that things would pass and that life would return to "normal." Most of us have resolved that for the foreseeable future things are different more so than they ever have been in our lifetime.

January - March 15th

Personally our year started out with Robyn dealing with shingles and me dealing with significant changes in my heart health. I did not keep up well for many months due to my health.

In mid March we all were greeted with a life altering "Pandemic" which caused our "in person" worship services to cease for a time.

Pastor Jeff and I scrambled to change the ministry around as fast as possible. Pastor Jeff was key to getting our live-streaming up and running through boxcast. He also was able to get our online giving up and running. The church board was solidly behind us the whole way as we were thrust into new technology we were not prepared for.

March 22 - May 31st we broadcast services via the internet only. We revamped our YouTube channel and began to see some positive things take place with it.

The live stream has been a challenge with limited access to decent internet. Auston Rush was a constant help through these days and continues to be. Jeff Murray also helped us.

We kept the contact circle small. Pastor Jeff and his boys worked with the livestream along with my son Caleb. I led worship along with my son Chris, daughter Mckenna and Kim Murray.

Alex Jovanovic ran a Zoom Sunday school class from his home in Croswell. Rochelle Murray did a mid-week Bible class with the children on Zoom.

Ruth Walters, our secretary continued to produce a bulletin and post it on Facebook. Our Janitor Willard Hortop only cleaned a limited amount.

2020 Senior Pastor's Report

Bethel Missionary Church

We chose to publish guidelines like everyone else was at the beginning of this. Eventually I did a video which we posted and connected to our media outlets (Facebook, YouTube, etc.)

Like many we were concerned about the future of our ministries but God provided throughout the whole year.

We did take advantage of the small business loan in April that was offered through the government and it did come in handy. We were required to account for all that we used on that. Bob Partlo and Barb Schember worked through that. We have since found out that as long as everything is filled out properly we are eligible for the 8500 to be forgiven.

Our board didn't meet in person for several months but communicated via telephone and text. We met in July, August, October, November and December.

During this year we battled with the realistic gravity of this pandemic. I believe we all were stunned with the passing of Pastor Phil Whipple in Early November.

Tightening our Ministry back up

November brought about some difficult decisions as Covid cases began to climb in numbers. With the recent death of Pastor Phil we chose to cancel or temporarily suspend some ministries.

Food & Clothing Giveaways

One ministry that flourished was our Food Giveaways which were required to be outside in a drive-thru fashion. This will remain our model as it has alleviated a vast amount of work. Our clothing giveaways have had a phenomenal response! Kim Rush has led the Clothing giveaway and assisted by Joyce Hortop.

This year has been very difficult. Personally in ministry this has been draining year. I am looking forward to new ways to minister and connect with our people.

- Pastor Rick Ferguson