

Hello Church, here is the newsletter for August, without the financial report, which will come later, maybe Monday.

Now an appeal, and this from Katie. She wants to step down from leading the hymns, and this is entirely at her request. We hope to have a woman do this, lead the two or three hymns we do on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Katie or me. Kent

Newsletter for August 2020

Dear Church Family,

We thank God for His grace towards us. As far as I know, in our little MAC, there are no virus infections. And though my knowledge is limited, I have not heard of one case in any church in the county with an infection much less a death. So, we have reason to be thankful.

Next, I am going to describe how I view the remaining years of my ministry at Miller Avenue Baptist Church in Mill Valley. I break it down into four categories.

First, to serve as pastor here to be best of my ability, and I could do little of it without my wonderful wife Katie. The focus is to present the saving message of Jesus to our county. This is of first importance. Marin is our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, as you consider Acts 1:8, which pushes us out further to the ends of the earth. We hope to do this via our media work—book publishing, television, podcasts, YouTube, and website, with more coming up. Most of you know my definition of pastor is one of being a feeder, caring for the flock, and this primarily by teaching the Word and being available to those in need. This last part is my biggest challenge. Please keep us in your prayers, as we are scheduled to lead an online “Gospel Meditation” for the Marin Interfaith Community on August 12th.

A pastor also must build up others to do the work of the ministry. Happily, we are doing well with a several people doing various ministries. I will not name names here, but the number is disproportionally large relative to our size.

Second, continue to reach out in ways that meet needs. Since January of 1986, we have offered the Divorce Recovery Workshop, and now with Zoom we are finding people outside the county joining in. Prison baseball is currently shut down, but I will be ready when it comes around again. High school baseball is always a phone call away, but meanwhile, I am writing a book about coaching. There is the food ministry on Saturday mornings, which will more than double in size when the pandemic is over and we partner with the Marin/San Francisco County Food Bank. And let me tell you what I think is our best outreach evangelistically right in Mill Valley: The Tiny Library. Daniel put it up, and he told me Saturday he is putting another coat of protective material on it. We are having to buy stuff now for it. I occasionally set and watch as many come along,

look at the booklets and books, and take them away. It is so inspirational, I cannot begin to tell you.

Categories three and four are new outreaches.

Three, reaching out to transgender people. This is far bigger than I have space for here, but our new book will be published in a few months. Its title is, *In the Wrong Body?: A Christian Approach to Transgender Issues*. (The subtitle may change.) We bring this book to Dallas at the National Religious Broadcasters convention. In a week or so, I will be done with my initial work and self-editing, then Katie gets it, edits more, and makes it ready for publication. I could go on and on with this and all the contacts we have made—it is dizzying.

Four is the one outreach I have been very reluctant to engage in, but here it is, and I cannot deny it any longer. It is called “Deliverance Ministry.” In 2014, we published the book, *Deliver us From Evil: How Jesus Casts out Demons Today*, which is now being translated into Spanish. It is a handbook on how to go about this work. Bob Hymers and I wrote *The Deliverance Book* in 1977, and it was published by Bible Voice. Stephanie Adams is currently typing it into a Word document, and as soon as it is ready, we will re-publish it. It was originally written in an attempt to stop so many people from coming to San Rafael for this ministry. Next, Maggie Bates will make a Word doc out of my ThM thesis, *A Manual of Demonology and the Occult*, which Zondervan Publishing House put out in 1973. It was translated into other languages, the only book of mine that made any money. These two new book versions will also be translated into Spanish. We will be training couples in how to do deliverance ministry, which will mostly be done online, but also in person. Many of us have concluded that this is the great need in today’s culture. In the 1970s and 1980s, there were a number of large outreaches to address this demand, but longer. We also will be working with the San Francisco Archdiocese’s exorcist, who is working on a waver document. So, hang on, here we go.