



THEALLIANCE

*Western Pennsylvania District*

341 N. Chestnut Street, Punxsutawney, PA 15767

Friday, April 24, 2020

Dear District Family,

In the midst of some very unusual days I trust that you have been experiencing the grace of God as you serve your congregation. Remember, God typically displays His greatness in the midst of the most challenging moments of life. He did it with Joseph, Moses, David, Ruth, Jesus, Peter, and Paul. I believe He is poised to do it again by the power of the Holy Spirit as we minister to those around us during these hard days.

Allow me to share with you a few examples of how God is already working through His people in our district:

- More than 30 churches of all denominations, led by Allegheny Center Alliance Church, came together to create a virtual choir. The goal was to gather as many diverse churches in the Pittsburgh area as possible and to sing a song as a blessing over our city. On Good Friday, word got out about what was happening and local media started reaching out asking ACAC about it. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ran an article that day which included the entire video. They were contacted by Fox News and CBS News in New York who all highlighted it on Easter Sunday. The video on YouTube now has more than 250K views and countless emails and messages have been received about the hope it's brought to people. If you haven't yet seen it click [Here](#)
- On Easter Sunday, churches in Chicora, Fayette City, and Ridgway held drive-in services in order to allow people to gather safely for worship in their cars. Attendance was encouraging!
- Awana kids from the Hollidaysburg church have had a wonderful card ministry to the local nursing and Veteran's homes. They have sent out dozens and dozens of cards, many of them hand-made, for the residents of these nursing homes
- Greensburg Alliance have developed an online VBS and are excited to see how God is going to use it.
- Coudersport Alliance did something fun by asking our church people to take a photo of themselves and their family on Easter morning. It was fun to "see" everyone, at least digitally, and the church family really enjoyed the photos!
- Many churches are reporting that individuals who would never enter a church sanctuary are sitting down to listen to sermons.
- The Washington Union Church in New Castle was selected by the National Office to have a 10-minute video made telling the story of how God has transformed their church in the past year. Click [Here](#) to see the video.

- Many pastors have reported that God has provided for needs and church finances in many amazing ways.
- Holy Spirit generosity prompted hearts to provide food for hungry needy people, providing grocery store gift cards, helping feed children through lunch distribution for children, community development projects in partnership with various foundations for renewal in river communities in Pittsburg, Beaver and the Mon valley.

Praise God for these encouraging reports! I recently received a note from Larry McCooey, President of Orchard. He writes, "Scarcity or crisis puts up our guard over available resources, it involves fear and worry, and it can negatively affect our behavior and decisions. An attitude of abundance and generosity believes that God has enough resources and we need to trust Him for His provision. God is generous, and He promises to meet all our needs, to guide us into His will, and that His purpose will prevail." Clearly generosity should be a strong descriptor of God's people, the Church. How might this area of witness impact a needy world?

Your district leadership team encourages you to monitor and adhere to the state guidelines which recommend avoiding corporate gatherings through May 8. We will continue to monitor the information coming from the Governor's office and make suggestions based on what is best for the safety of our people and the mission God has given us. It seems prudent to expect that ministry gatherings will be in small group numbers, at least into early summer. Develop your strategic plan in adaptive ways so that whatever changes happen, gospel presence and proclamation continue. District camp leadership teams are assessing summer ministry programs and will be sending out updates in the next several weeks.

Be encouraged, be bold, lean into community, move out of isolation and take the faith-filled risks that the Holy Spirit is leading you to take. Trust God - for He is at work and this we celebrate!

You are being prayed for. Your ministry during this season is nothing short of heroic. We thank God for you!

In Christ,

Dave and the DLT