



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**Good morning, church family. What joy fills my heart this morning as I type this knowing that in some way this e-mail will make connection with some of you. Connections are what it is all about whether we make them in person, online, or by way of an e-mail. Let me start off by giving you a health update. Sonya and I are doing fine. Her immune system is incredibly strong, so she is showing no signs of the virus. I am improving daily except for the continued cough and inability to sleep well. That is what I would ask you to pray about for me, and I know that so many of you are. Thank you for all of the calls, texts, e-mails, and FaceBook messages. You are truly a blessing to us. My plan is to work from home this week, but I should be back in the office on Thursday.**

**I want to say thank you to Forrest for filling in for me this week. He did a great job on Wednesday and yesterday – even if he stole my message. I am thankful for his servant’s heart as I am for our entire staff. I could write and talk for hours about the way that this staff has pulled together during this pandemic to continue the work of the ministry, but I will save that for another time.**

**This has truly been a very strange and difficult year for churches everywhere, but I am so grateful for your faithfulness through these past months. God is blessing our church spiritually, financially, and numerically in spite of our inability to do the kind of ministry that we long to do. I am excited about the future, and I am making a commitment to you that when I get back to work, I am going to do everything within my power to guide our staff to do the work of the ministry that you need – that this community needs – to the best of our ability. I believe that everything we do at First Baptist Church needs to be the absolute best that we can do.**

**In the coming weeks, we will be celebrating Christmas – looking at the Characters of Christmas in the sermons, singing the songs of Christmas in our worship, and celebrating the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve. My prayer is that this entire month will be a major new focus on this miracle of God putting on flesh and coming to earth. If you didn't see my FaceBook post yesterday, let me encourage you to check out this video on Right Now Media: *The Christmas Experience* by Kyle Idleman. It is set up as a six week small group study on Christmas, but you can watch it in a few hours or break it up over a matter of days. It would be a great way for your whole family to enjoy a powerful portrayal of the Christmas story.**

**Well, I'm going to stop there, but I want you to know one more thing. I love you with all of my heart, and I am praying for each of you as God brings your face or name to my mind. Make this day count for our Father.**

**Bro. Ben**