



Gooooood Monday morning, my friends. Have you ever had one of the days where you went to bed feeling blessed and got up in the morning feeling blessed? That was me last night. I actually told Sonya that I didn't want to go to sleep last night because of the emotions that filled my heart and mind. I want to say thank you for your affirmation last night at the end of the business meeting, and I want to thank you for all of the cards and notes you gave to us. We both read every word, and we did so more than once. The generous gifts for Pastor Appreciation were once again more than we deserved. I want you to know that I will be sending out "thank you" notes to everyone, but there were a couple of cards that were not signed, so if you don't get a card, that's the reason.

I am also blessed that in our business meeting we made a very important decision, and I think that we will all come to realize that it was the right decision. We voted to go back to one service starting on January 2, 2022. Our new times will be 9 a.m. for Sunday School and 10 a.m. for worship. Someone said that now I will be able to preach and extra 30 minutes since you weren't used to getting out until 11:30, but I will TRY not to take advantage of that. Someone else said that we will now be able to beat the Methodists to the restaurants. There's always a silver lining, isn't there. I truly believe that we need the renewed fellowship and excitement that a full sanctuary will provide. The problem is what we do when we once again reach capacity in our worship service. There are several ideas we are working on for an interim solution, but ultimately, if we are going to continue to grow and reach our community, we are either going to have to think about a bigger sanctuary or send out some of our people to plant a new church in the area. Please join me in

praying for God to guide us as we seek His will on how we can best accomplish this.

I also mentioned last night that I truly believe that we need to start some new small group Bible Studies, discipleship groups, and Sunday School classes. One of the things I want us to understand is that we need to be thinking outside of the box. That means we don't have to do everything on Sunday or Wednesday. We don't have to do it all on the church property. I'm not going to try to usurp the role of the Holy Spirit, but I do want you to know that I am praying for God to call out some of you to be the leader that I know you are. If you start feeling the nudge of the Holy Spirit, though, please let me know, and I will be glad to help you get started.

We have lots of great ministries taking place here at the end of the year. Please continue to give to Operation Christmas Child to provide the shoeboxes. Our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is coming up November 28. Keep in mind that every

penny given to this offering goes to missionaries around the world. Then, our WMU ladies are asking for all of our help with their Christmas FoodFest as we provide meals for 120 families this Christmas. See Linda Kilgore for more information.

One more thing: small groups start back this Sunday night at 4 p.m. However, my Revelation Study will not meet because I will be meeting with our Young Adult small group. I am excited about this as they have lots of questions for me. I am just praying that I will have the answers. My group will start back on November 21.

Please know that I am praying for you.

Bro. Ben