



# BARCELONA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dr. Jon M. Stubblefield, Pastor

Willard A. Zeiser, Associate Pastor

March 30, 2020

Dear Church Family:

Philip Martin had a column in last Sunday's Arkansas Democrat Gazette on Paul Simon. He quoted these lyrics from the well-known musician's "American Tune" (1973).

"I don't know a soul who's not been battered, I don't have a friend who feels at ease,  
I don't know a dream that's not been shattered, or driven to its knees."

These words resonate and relate to our current crisis. Everyone is affected one way or another. Sometimes we feel helpless, isolated, and alone.

The good news is that our Lord is with us. As Moses approached death and prepared to leave the Israelites, he reminded them, "The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:27). A couple of verses earlier, he encouraged, "And as thy days, so shall thy strength be" (Deuteronomy 33:25). God is with us and gives us the strength to carry on. This is enough to keep us going.

Consider these suggestions: 1. Stay healthy. Wash your hands and practice social distancing. Our leaders tell us we are to stay-in-place until April 30. 2. Stay connected. Don't be a loner. Reach out to others. 3. Stay prayed up. We have suggested a 9 o'clock prayer time each morning. Many of you have told me you are doing this. Of course, we can pray at other times as well. If you receive e-mails, the office is sending out a prayer list each Thursday.

Willard Zeiser and I, along with our technical folks, will put a message on the website this week. It will be available to view on Saturday, April 4, or Palm Sunday, April 5, if you choose to watch it then. Duane Blakley is planning an Easter service, April 12, for our website. The service will include music, a children's moment, Scripture and prayer, and a sermon. Fewer than 10 of us will be present, and we will practice social distancing and proper use of hand sanitizer.

Thank you, brothers and sisters in Christ, for your faithful, generous giving. Our budget offering in March totaled \$48,406.70. Our monthly budget requires \$48,393.33. To God be the glory! Our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal for North American missions is \$7,500. To date we have given \$3,295. Remember, you may send your offering by mail, place it in the lock box behind the office building, or have your bank send it to the church. The church staff checks the mail box and lock box daily.

Your staff continues to work daily. We are in and out of the office and do as much work from home as possible, to protect ourselves and our families. Willard made 121 phone calls last week checking on our church family! I know you were glad to hear from him. This letter is sent by postal mail so everyone can receive it. Those who have e-mail will receive it twice.

"The Lord bless you, and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

Your Pastor,

Jon M. Stubblefield