

# Preparing for Resurrection Sunday Whether Physically Connected or Socially Distanced

April 12, 2020 may go down in church history as one of the truly unique ministry opportunities of all times. We are still unsure if the church will be freed to meet physically or if we will need to plan for the most creative and effective day possible!

I have been gathering information and tools from a myriad of Southern Baptist news sources to provide you with some thoughts or suggestions in either case.

1) Invite people NOW to whatever method you will be utilizing. We cannot be certain that we can meet in our buildings as usual. So, what will you do? It is probably unwise to wait until Palm Sunday and be ill-prepared for the Resurrection Sunday event.

2) This may be the BEST OPPORTUNITY in decades to present a CLEAR AND COMPELLING Gospel message. People are fearful and feeling hopeless. Who can erase their fear and give them hope for eternity? Let us be diligent to share peace, hope, victory and sacrificial love to those who are tender to our BEST NEWS and our Great Savior!

3) DO IT WELL! Be prepared, polished and passionate. We should be better prepared for Resurrection Sunday 2020 than any other Sunday this year or this decade. The service should go smooth and unhindered. Practice with your technology, music and schedule to honor those who will be listening.

4) Glorify the Father! He will be listening too! Lift up the Cross and the Power of the Resurrection (**John 12:32-33 (NKJV)** And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die).

## Suggestions for Resurrection Sunday Connectivity



1) Consider an **outdoor service** (depending on the weather). There will be plenty of room for social distancing. Keep it brief. Do it well. Refrain from handshakes etc. We used to perform Sunrise Services on this monumental day for years – outdoors AT SUNRISE!

2) **Drive-In Church** – several churches experimented with this last Sunday across our denomination. You will either need a powerful sound system for the sound to engage those furthest away or use an FM transmitter (like the ones used for Christmas lighting and music presentations). GBA just purchased one

for such a time as this. It is on a first-come, first-serve basis BUT it must be your planned method of communication on Resurrection Sunday. We purchased a **VST VFM-40T PLL Synthesizer system PLL FM Transmitter**. It will transmit to the listener's car radio.



3) **Multiple Services** (one church had 8 services to accommodate their group) allowing for 6-foot separation between attendees and compliance with the 10+ grouping guideline. Indoors, seats may be reserved to ensure spacing with printed *social distancing* signs. Families should be welcome to sit together since they rode to church together and live in the same house.

4) After viewing numerous recorded and live streaming worship services, from sea to shining sea and in England, I have a few suggestions/admonishments for these next several weeks/months:

- ✓ Change the zoom on the camera between music (the entire stage) and the sermon (close up for body language and facial expressions).
- ✓ Utilize PowerPoint behind the preacher. It can be seen when typed in large font (approx. 34+ pt.)
- ✓ Keep the relaxed, comforting atmosphere. I saw a few churches in a whole new light.
- ✓ Talk about the virus and its impact on our world. Don't avoid talking about the elephant in the room.
- ✓ Keep the focus on the Good News. The Gospel is the BEST News.
- ✓ Pray for those who are listening, but don't use the prayer time for another opportunity to preach!
- ✓ **START ON TIME!** I waited almost 15 minutes past the start time for one service. Honor those who are waiting for the service to begin.
- ✓ Keep it clear and concise.
- ✓ Speak clearly and avoid trailing off the volume at the end of sentences. Refrain from mumbling. Annunciate well.
- ✓ **REMEMBER:** The camera **IS** the conduit to the audience. Look at the camera. Avoid looking around as though there are others in your auditorium, living room, office, etc.
- ✓ Finally, leave cute remarks and/or side comments off the stage. Avoid jokes only church members will catch!

## GBA Schedule and Announcements

**Office Hours** are unhindered but are being performed between the office and home. Call for personal appointments (618-254-3953).

**All meetings** will be held via Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, or conference calls.

We are offering a **weekly announcement and devotional video blog** on Wednesdays, beginning April 1 (no fooling) at 2 PM. Just for encouragement!

We are also having **book club study** on Wednesdays. We will start with Thom Rainer's new book, "The Anatomy of a Revived Church" (you will need to get a copy online). This for anyone who would like the information, education and fellowship. This will be available at 3 PM for 40 minutes.

Be sure to keep up to date via the weekly Constant Contact and through the GBA website and Facebook page.

Let us strive to thrive and stabilize when things around us are going south! We will not be able to do business as usual. We need to be caring, not crabby! We must be submissive and not stubborn. We must look beyond our own windows and see the hurt and needs on the streets. We must be committed to doing whatever is necessary for the spread of the Gospel!

We are blessed and honored to serve you and your church, but THIS IS NOT ABOUT US! We join with you and stand ready to resource your ministry as we take this land back for the King and His Kingdom!

Blessed by You,



Tracy Jagers  
GBA Director of Missions

