

May 13, 2020

Dear Church Family,

The Lord blessed us with a wonderful Ingathering celebration last Sunday. We had a good turnout. I know there were others who wanted to be there, but could not. You were missed and I look forward to that day when we can all be together again.

We received 3 different offerings at the Ingathering. For the Annie Armstrong Offering, you gave \$590.00 toward the \$1500 goal. With what had been given earlier, the total stands at \$1,543! Praise the Lord for that. Through this offering, the Lord graciously allows us to participate in the spreading of the gospel across our nation and Canada.

The regular offering received was \$7,195! I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, faithfulness, and sacrifice this represents for the ongoing ministry and outreach of Oakland Baptist Church. I pray that this faith-filled giving will result in Christian lives strengthened and the further evangelization of the lost in our community.

And you gave an abundance of non-perishable food items. The total was approximately 1,000 pounds or ½ ton! My friends, that is a lot of food! There are significant material needs in our community and I believe the Lord will use this food offering to meet many of those very real needs.

A special thanks to Nancy McKinney for preparing the beautiful Mother's Day flowers and ribbon. And a hearty word of appreciation to Kim and Lillie Rosson for the Muffins for Mom in the attractive sacks with a Scripture verse. Those gifts were a wonderful way to honor the women of our church.

We are working through the various implications and preparation needed for reopening the church building. The worship and the building and grounds committees, and other church leadership met May 13. We worked through a good many issues, and there is of course much work yet to be done to prepare for reopening. One of our guiding principles is that as important as it is to each one of us to be able to fellowship together once again, the speed with which we reopen is less important than it is to reopen in such a way that we provide as best we can for the safety of all.

We will communicate many details over the next several weeks. For now, I want you to be aware that our target date is **June 07**. We will begin with weekly worship, and then later resume Sunday School, and then the Wednesday evening program. For those who are not comfortable coming back at this time, I want to assure you that we will continue the recording and distribution of DVDs/CDs.

There are 2 ways you can immediately assist with the reopening. Please donate any unneeded rubbing alcohol, in order for us to make additional sanitizer. You can give your alcohol to the deacon when they deliver your DVD/CD. I never thought I would make that last statement to a Baptist Church! A second thing . . . if you have not already returned the reopening survey, please mail it to the church or give it to the deacon on Friday when she/he delivers your DVD/CD. Your input is invaluable.

I am thankful for each one of you. May you know, in a very special way, our precious Lord's presence, protection, and guidance. In Him, Pastor Dennis