



thecrossroads.church

Leading people to follow Jesus

March 17, 2020

To **The Crossroads Church** family, whom I love:

Never before in my 45-year ministry have I been faced with so many tough choices. Even though the protocols regarding how we must do this journey of “regulated social distancing” leaves hardly any of us hardly any choice.

The Sunday worship service is a sacred time for us all. So to cancel a Sunday service? It’s a decision I do not take lightly. But I’m faced with the need to comply with the regulations of our government. However, I want to do so while, at the same time, obeying my Lord.

And *that* is exactly what I intend to do. So here’s what I am doing so that I obey both my government, but above all, obey the Lord.

**The Crossroads will NOT be canceling services this Sunday.**

**And instead, we will be relocating our entire Sunday service to your homes.**

That’s right, the band, your pastor— we are ALL coming to your home this Sunday. Via technology.

Now before you shrug, folks this is a big deal for us! Over the last two years, we’ve been slowly building toward an online, live streaming option for worship. We have long believed that this option would help us maintain a connection with our many snowbirds during the summer months. But the time and expense have remained as tall mountains!

Little did we know.

Last Saturday, before the latest regulations related to group size was announced, I convened a few members of our Tech Team and commissioned them to get us to completion by this coming Sunday, March 22, 2020.

This decision has required an investment of additional dollars during a time when our instinct is to draw back on expenses, but this decision made itself. It is also demanding hours and hours of effort, installing equipment and receiving the training to be able to operate the equipment.

*And may I say, if ever there was a time for you to volunteer and if ever there was a ministry team to volunteer for— it's this time and this team. So please, call or text Clarissa at 623.512.3173 and report for duty!*

You see, I could not, in good conscience just cancel our worship services. But I can choose to relocate them. To your home. To your small group. To your neighborhood circle of friends.

This move may not be a big deal for churches that already have this technology in place, **but The Crossroads Church is purchasing, installing and operating this equipment over the course of barely one week!** I don't know about you, but I loudly affirm the efforts of our tech nerds!!

There is so much more I want to tell you about. But that's all I have time to talk about right now. Just, please: STAY TUNED!

I hope this news will underscore to you how much we love you. You are the flock of God assigned, for the duration, to me. I promise to take great care of you. So even though we can't see each other for a season, here's something I can do: I am giving you my cell number. If you have a prayer need, a need for sustenance on any level, maybe just a listening ear, just dial me up at 480.280.6558.

Till we reach the other end of this journey, I remain: Your shepherd who loves you in the name of the Great Shepherd of our souls.

Pastor Steve

PS:

There is so much more that I want to tell you about. Yesterday, at our staff meeting [which we limited to under ten!], we started with a blank white board and our desire to lean in to greater ministry than ever before! The enthusiasm among ALL our team members was palpable...and so very humbling. So please! Stay tuned! Even more, get fully connected.

- If you haven't yet downloaded our app, please do so. Come on! You've got the time now. What else can you do? So, let's do it! Go to your app store and search "The Crossroads Church AZ."

- Once downloaded, open the app and set up your profile. Again, you can do this. All you've got right now is time. So create your profile and then?

- Set your notifications. I know, everybody hates notifications. But with so much social distancing, maybe a digital nudge will be welcome! So allow notifications to receive the very latest news.