

“And This Too Shall Pass.”

I seem to be telling myself more than usual these days that *“This too shall pass.”* I often tell others that, as a way of encouraging them during difficult times. The reminder seems to help in a lot of situations. Three to four times a year I even remind myself that *“This too shall pass.”* What I don’t remember is telling myself every couple of weeks that the situation is going to change and things will be get better. Things are changing for sure, but I am not sure for the better. We are still battling the COVID 19 Virus, for most of us we are still waiting for a time when we feel safe about entering our churches again, and if that was not enough, we are now dealing with wide spread civil unrest and protest. Most folks felt like the 2020 Election was going to be the Big Story in 2020. But the way things are going and by the time we get to the national election, who wins the election may be relegated to the third page rather than the front page of our newspapers. These times are so unbelievable, that many folks feel like they are living in some kind of alternative universe.

The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the churches in Ephesus, that *“our struggle is not against flesh and blood... but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”*. It is important to be reminded of this truth from time to time. The real fight is not with our neighbors, church members, politicians, police officers, or leaders. Our ultimate fight is against the evil one who comes as a thief in the night to destroy all that God loves and values. How different that is from our Lord, Savior, and Friend, Jesus. Jesus says He comes to give us an abundant life, filled with love, joy, and peace. What a contrast.

The evil one has been at his work from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. Always seeking to destroy all that God loves. What is so amazing about the work of the evil one is that he has had only one strategy during all of these thousands and thousands of years. It is the same strategy whether he is targeting you or me, or the church, or our state, or nation, or the world. One strategy every day, all the time. That strategy is easy to see as it plays out in our communities, churches, and nations.

The strategy of the evil one is **DIVISION**. He works every day at dividing brother against brother, spouse against spouse, children against parents, our churches, our state, our country, and this world. Even when Jesus walked on the face of this earth, the evil one tried to bring division between the Father and the Son. The evil one’s strategy has been so effective, there is no reason for him to change. Everyday, every generation, his goal is to divide us from one another, and especially from God. And he is good at his strategy. If you have any doubts just turn your TV on tonight and watch the news for one hour. Almost every story will be a symptom of our being a divided people.

So what is the defense against this strategy of ***DIVISION?*** ***To Be One in Christ.***

This is the word of the Lord:

Romans 12:5 *“so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*

Galatians 3:28 *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

My prayer for each of you, our churches, our state, and our country is that we will see the wisdom of being **One In Christ Jesus.**

Eddie

MTBA Program Committee Planning for Fall Meeting ?



The MTBA Program Committee spends most of their time looking and planning for the future. Our association has been blessed to have some very gifted and capable people to serve on this committee over the years. Because of their creative imaginations and sensitivity to the hearts of our MTBA family, they have provided us with two outstanding meetings each year.

But this year, 2020, has been a most unusual year to say the least. The Program Committee felt it was prudent to cancel the Spring Meeting even though many of the plans had already been put in place. It was a hard decision, but with all the issues related to the COVID 19 virus, it was a decision that was supported by all of our MTBA leaders.

The Program Committee once again finds themselves trying to look into the future to figure out how to best proceed with the planning of the 2020 MTBA Fall Meeting. This committee met on Tuesday night, June 2, to begin thinking about our MTBA Fall Meeting. At this point in time, there is no way to predict what the situation will look like for Sunday, October 18. Here are some of the ideas that were discussed at the June 2 meeting.

- Will not make a final decision about having the Fall Meeting until August.
- The possibility of moving the meeting to September 20, and avoid any health issues that might surface in the fall.
- The possibility of meeting outside under a tent, especially if we move the meeting to September.
- They do not envision having a fellowship meal.
- Possibility of shortening the meeting to 3:00-4:30 PM
- Meeting would consist of MTBA Business, Music, and Worship time with Dr. Don Davidson as our keynote speaker.

The Program Committee is made up of the following members: John Snow (Chair), Sue Smith, Steve Ransone, Jennifer Lucas, Susan Brooks, and Eniko Jordan. Please be in prayer for them as they work through the planning process for our fall meeting. If you have any ideas that you would like to share with the Program Committee, they welcome your input and suggestions.

A Collection of Articles and Videos on Regathering

- <https://bgav.org/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hflTIPbtpxk>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/when-will-church-buildings-reopen/>
- <https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them>
- This training includes 9 videos and 15 downloadable documents to help you create a contextualized response and reopening plan for your church.
- <https://lifeway17308.acemlna.com/lt.php?s=16cc5481a31f8404edb61574358ca21d&i=85A94A5A382>
- <https://lifeway17308.acemlna.com/lt.php?s=16cc5481a31f8404edb61574358ca21d&i=85A94A5A382>

WHERE HAS THE CHURCH BEEN IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS OF CORONAVIRUS?

Some may say that our “church” doors are locked. But I say to you that our “churches” have never been more open. You are God’s “church” and have been open to the calling of His work. While the building may have been locked, you have been doing God’s work with His love in your hearts.

1. Made face masks.
2. Made/purchased items for OCC (Operation Christmas Child) shoe boxes.
3. Made and filled Children’s Sunday School lessons & treat bags and Mother’s Day bags.
4. Taught children and grandchildren while schools have been closed.
5. Made blessing bags for homeless, Food pantries opened for those in need of food.
6. Family Summer Fun Bingo
7. Planted Community gardens; watched God bring forth seeds bursting from the ground.
8. Delivered food, cut grass, picked up groceries, medicines, took someone to a doctor.
9. Phoned, sent cards, texted, waved, blew kisses, and connected with people in & out of your circle.
10. Visited love ones in nursing homes while remaining outside. Attended a graveside service while social distancing.
11. Worship—facebook, live stream, drive thru, radio and television: God’s Word is forever & ever!
12. On line Bible studies, Sunday School, prayer gatherings; some in person while social distancing.
13. MOST important, YOU have been in prayer, “pray at all times”, those needing lifting to the **Great, “I Am”**.

In the book of James 2:17-18, 26, we read:

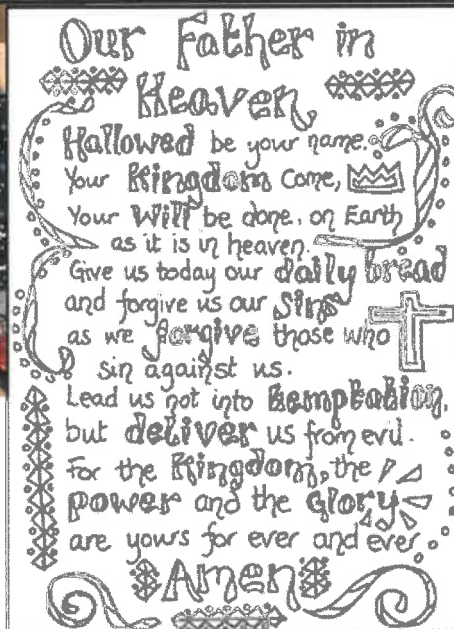
“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Our buildings may have been closed, but the **CHURCH IS OPEN!**

Reflections by Barbara Bareford



Dresses made for Occ



Community garden



Blessing bags



Children’s Sunday School lessons and treat bags



Face masks



Rev. John Pershing “Jack” Moody, a native of Colonial Heights, VA, passed on March 27, 2020. Pastor Moody served for over 40 years and started four new churches. One of the many churches he served as Pastor was Glebe Landing BC.

Rev. David Bernard Beale, of Urbanna, VA, passed on May 12, 2020. Pastor Beale was a member and Pastor Emeritus of Hermitage BC and had served as Pastor of numerous Baptist churches.

Both **Pastors Moody and Beale** were very active in the work of MTBA and for the cause of winning lost souls to Christ. We are grateful for their service to the Lord and express our deepest sympathy and love to their families. May God shelter you in the arms of His everlasting love.

THANK YOU!

Because of YOUR generous giving to MTBA, a love gift was sent to Eastern Shore to assist with their urgent needs caused by coronavirus.

As of May 11, there are **524** known cases of Covid-19 in Accomack County and **170** known cases of Covid-19 in Northampton County. These are God's people, not cases. Marisa Sanchez, Missionary, Church Planter, and WMU Language Consultant, ministers in this county.

SHARING

If your church has a committee meeting and is unable to meet in person, MTBA has a zoom account and is available to your church. Please contact MTBA office for details.

STAY CONNECTED

Mid-Tidewater Baptist Association
P. O. Box 302
884 Gloucester Road
Saluda, VA 23149

1. **Visit us:** 884 Gloucester Road, (behind Saluda post office), 2nd floor, Mon.-Wed. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.
2. **Call us:** 804-758-4385
3. **Communicate with us: e-mail:**
Rev. Eddie Heath, DOM (Cell: 804-921-3658) eddie@midtidewaterbaptist.org
Barbara Bareford, Office Administrator barbara@midtidewaterbaptist.org
4. **Share our Stories: On Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/MidTidewaterBaptists/>
5. **Stay Informed: Webpage** www.midtidewaterbaptist.org