



MILEPOST

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HAPPY EASTER

**From the staff of the
Alaska Baptist Resource Network**



Randy Covington, Executive Director

What Next with Coronavirus?

The recent outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) has created quite a stir around the globe. It is interesting to watch how people react when their way of life is disturbed. As followers of Christ, we must remember that history is replete with events similar to what we are experiencing today. Old Testament prophets warned of future events such as this. Christ himself advised his disciples to be prepared for trials and tribulations to come. Lamentations 3:22-23 remind us that **the steadfast love of the Lord never comes to an end; they are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness!**

These unusual events create a great deal of anxiety and fear for those who have no hope. But they can offer the church unprecedented opportunities to minister in the midst of their crisis. A number of our churches are considering how they can broadcast their worship services to members and maintain the vital ministries of outreach. There are a number of suggestions of how the church can step up at this moment in history. Here are some suggestions that some are already implementing.

Ministering to your Church members

1. Consider livestreaming your sermons through Facebook Live, Zoom, etc or recording the sermon and posting it to your social media outlet;
2. Develop Facebook groups for Life Groups or Sunday

- School groups to encourage interactive Bible study;
3. Provide the ability for members to give on-line and encourage them not to forsake the giving of the tithe;
4. Pursue new avenues for the use of on-line technology for your ministries;

Ministering to Your Community

1. Discover the physical needs of people in your community and find ways to serve them; Contact the AK Dept of Health and Social Services at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Grocery shopping and delivering meals to families in quarantine; Contact Salvation Army or Red Cross to find ways to assist with food and service items;
3. Partner with other churches to provide relief for families in crisis;
4. Provide benevolent assistance to families who have lost incomes;

The ABRN offices are closed to the public, but we are teleworking from home and remain available to our churches to assist in whatever way we can. We will be sending out additional weekly updates and suggestions on how to thrive in the midst of the chaos around us. Pray that God would give us every opportunity to model the love of Christ and a steadfast faith that cannot be shaken. Our God is faithful!



Jimmy Stewart, State Director of Evangelism and Church Development

Covid-19 & Teaching Remotely if your Church Isn't Meeting

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected all of us, and there is more to come. What are you doing in place of meeting at your church? Many pastors say that coming to hear preaching is great, but if you can only go to one thing during a week, more growth would take place in a small group Bible study. Well, now we get to practice this. In place of groups, remember, there is Facebook Live, Zoom meetings, emails, etc that can keep our spiritual houses together

Ken Braddy, *Director of Sunday School* for LifeWay Christian Resources wrote the message below. All Bible Study leaders should check out his blog at www.kenbraddy.com. He manages the work of the editorial teams that create all the Bible studies that LifeWay produces for adults, such as *Bible Studies For Life*, *Explore The Bible*, *MasterWork*, *The Gospel Project*, and *YOU*, and more. During this national emphasis that has affected our daily lives and church meeting times. Lifeway is responding and Ken shares the following:

“Now for some good news from your friends at LifeWay. We are working quickly to respond and help churches as we all deal with the affects of COVID-19. Here are some things we’re doing to help:

1. [My team is going to provide free studies from *Explore the Bible*, *Gospel Project*, and *Bible studies for Life*.](#) These will be digital and available to anyone who needs studies while they are sequestered. Later this week the materials will be live and online, along with many other resources for free. When that happens, I’ll send you another post with the link.
2. [My team is going to provide social media/email messages for group leaders to send to their classes.](#) If your group uses Bible Studies for Life, Explore the Bible, or Gospel Project, we provide weekly email messages and text messages in the Leader Pack. These can be copied and pasted into text messages to the group, or into an encouraging email to the group. Normally these are only found in our leader packs which cost about \$28, but we will post these later this week, too, for free. This will help teachers have something to say and send to their groups to encourage them to study and stay up with their weekly studies.
3. [LifeWay is recording training videos early this week that we will post for free – to train you how to use communication tools like FaceBook Live, Zoom, and more.](#)

I do hope you will check out his webpage. There are some great articles and blogs there. God is in control. He is on the throne. He is not surprised. This is not our home. This, too, will pass. Bless you all, and let’s start thinking about ways to minister and share the love of Christ through this, and especially after this passes. We will have many open doors if the body of Christ will shine. Don’t give in to the panic and certainly don’t contribute to the chaos. Let’s let God be God to all of us.

You can also find help on YouTube, but we’re shooting our own videos. Again, when these are ready later this week, I’ll send another blog post with the links to these free videos.

4. [LifeWay Kids has created free at-home supplements for families impacted by COVID-19. Click here to jump to the page where you can download these materials for free.](#)
 5. [We provide free podcasts each week for Bible Studies for Life, Explore the Bible, and Gospel Project.](#) They relate to the study taking place that week, and the links can be shared with teachers and group members. Click one of the following links depending upon which curriculum line your group uses: [Gospel Project](#), [Bible Studies for Life](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page), [Explore the Bible](#) (click on an individual session and scroll down for the podcast).
- If you have other solutions for groups to meet and engage remotely, please leave a comment so that we can all learn what each other is doing during these difficult days.
- Watch for my post later this week with links to the free helps we’re working on!
- Finally, please know that we at LifeWay are praying for your safety and for your churches and your members as we all navigate uncharted waters.”



Foundation Builder

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God is sovereign and controls the outcomes of our lives and those around us. We have the promise that He works all things together for good for those that are called to His purpose. For these reasons we are told not to worry but to rest in the provisions of the Lord.

This is easy to say but different thing to live out when inundated with the reality of our surroundings. We see no greater picture of this than the recent roller coaster ride of the current financial markets. When it comes to dealing with the uncertainties of investment it is important to understand how one should **F.R.A.M.E.** their investment objectives.

1. Financial investments are “phantom” until realized: a stock may go down dramatically, but losses are only on paper and there is no actual loss. When the market rebounds those paper losses are recovered.

2. Risk tolerance and timing rather than fads should determine investments: An individual’s comfort level with volatility, i.e. risk tolerance, and length of time until investments need to be realized, or become “usable cash,” should be the pertinent factors in investment selection.

3. Allocation and diversification of investments are key considerations: Allocation describes an investment portfolio’s percentage of stocks, bonds, and cash. Diversification goes into detail of how the investment portfolio is invested within given categories such as international stock, domestic stock, real estate securities, commodities, corporate debt, and municipal debt. Allocation speaks to overall risk whereas diversification speaks to how volatility is being managed.

4. Motivation of an investment should be clear: What is the underlying need or want behind the investment? Is it retirement savings, educational savings for children, emergency fund, or speculation as a hobby? Investment purpose greatly impacts how one should invest. For instance, if investment is a hobby, the idea is to take an

enormous risk, based on speculation, for the possibility of higher returns. That is an entirely different situation than investing for an emergency or stated goal like education.

5. Effect of taxes should be considered: consider the differences between investments that generate capital gains, Muni bonds that are federally tax-exempt, or corporate bonds which produce ordinary income. Investment holding vehicles also impact expenses such as the difference between using a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA.

Remembering that financial investments become recognized when removed from the market conditions, which are by their very nature fluctuating, is key. Knowing how much risk you are comfortable with, and the amount of time you have to invest, is critical. When an individual understands their tolerance and their time line, they can effectively develop an allocation model and diversification philosophy to help smooth out some of the uncertainties of market conditions. Motivation for a given investment objective is critical. This motivation dictates how one should frame their investments. Finally, while it may not be the most critical issue, evaluating the impact of taxes on any given investment can be very important in minimizing expenses associated with investing.

While the above process provides a framework and is designed to mitigate the anxiety of investing, we must understand that life is replete with uncertainty. Our Christian faith provides stability because our foundation is not found on the earth but secured in Jesus Christ who reigns in heaven is sovereign over the earth.

This article is general in nature and designed to provide basic concepts not specific investment advice. For detailed investment counsel please consult a personal financial advisor who is familiar with your situation.

Information used from:

<https://networthadvice.com/asset-allocation-vs-diversification-2/>

MILEPOST MOMENTS

The staff of the Alaska Baptist Resource Network reserves the right to edit submitted information for content and space.



Grandview Baptist Church

The first week in March, we had an amazing time with a team from Shorter University. Eight students and three adults spent three mornings volunteering at our neighborhood elementary school and even made lunch for the staff. One of our team members was invited to give a talk about archaeology and another, who was a sheriff deputy, went to several classrooms sharing about K9 police dogs. We had such a great time at



the school and there are open doors to further partnership with the school and teachers. While picking up crockpots after the teacher’s luncheon, we were able to talk with several teachers who wanted to know about Graceworks and our church. I will continue volunteering at the school twice a month and looking for future opportunities. We are not there to push our agenda. We are there to serve and show Jesus’ love!

In the afternoons, the team hosted a skills



camp. Children learned sign language, first aid, and made crafts and pinewood derby cars. The team had opportunities through intentional conversations to share Jesus’ love!

On Sunday, the team lead a worship night for youth. Youth from several local churches met together.

We are excited to see the walls between our churches dissolving and the Gospel being proclaimed!

Dear Southern Baptists,

This announcement is one I neither expected nor wanted to make when I came to the SBC Executive Committee. In fact, it’s one that has not been made in 75 years.

But after prayerful deliberation, the Southern Baptist Convention officers, the SBC Executive Committee, and the executive heads of the Convention’s boards and institutions, acting in a body according to Article XI.4 of the SBC Constitution, have made the decision to cancel the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting, scheduled for June 9-10 in Orlando.

In light of the COVID-19 global pandemic which we believe constitutes a grave emergency, it is in the best interest of the SBC to cancel the Annual Meeting—for the first time in 75 years—out of a deep concern for the health and safety of messengers and attendees.

We are calling on all Southern Baptists to pray for an end to this global pandemic and that God will bring His Church together at this time to sharpen our focus like never before.

I realize many of you may have questions about logistics, refunds, or other events. The Executive Committee has published an initial FAQ and will continue to update that document as needed. Also, Baptist Press has more information about the cancellation. That story can be [read here](#).

In closing, please remember this is not a time for Southern Baptists to shrink back in timidity and fearfulness or be paralyzed with uncertainty. This is not the time to retreat. This is a time for us to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in every town, every city, every state and every nation.

Now is the time to lead,

Ronnie W. Floyd
President & CEO
SBC Executive Committee



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN — APR • MAY • JUN —

April

All events cancelled

May

...stay tuned for more information...

June

9-10 **CANCELLED: SBC annual meeting Orlando**

Please Pray for
our Pastorless Churches

Aquillaq Baptist Mission, Ambler
Chinese Fellowship, Fairbanks
Cold Bay Chapel
First Baptist Church, Anchorage
First Baptist Church, Petersburg
Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission
Riverside Chapel, King Salmon
Shungnak Baptist Mission

We are still accepting gifts to the First Quarter 2000 Club.
Due to the change of secretaries, the first quarter informational mailing was not made in 2020.



2000 CLUB
SECOND QUARTER 2020

SECOND QUARTER FUNDS WILL BE
DESIGNATED TO THE NON-REQUESTED
FUND TO BE ASSIGNED, AS NEEDED,
AT A LATER DATE.



2000 Club
First Quarter 2020

Cold Bay Community Chapel
The parsonage needs an arctic entry and staircase on the front. Damaged flooring needs to be replaced in the living area, hallways and bathroom. Four wired smoke alarms need to be acquired and installed. The pantry and kitchen strage areas will be finished, two bathrooms remodeled and soffit ventilation installed.

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