



John

16:33



I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

DOM Thoughts,

The following article was written by Dr. Thom Rainer. Dr. Rainer is the founder and CEO of Church Answers, an online community and resource for church leaders. Prior to founding Church Answers, he served as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Before coming to LifeWay, he served at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for twelve years where he was the founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism.

"Five Reasons Churches Will Have An Incredible Window of Opportunity"

As congregations return methodically to in-person services, something else will be taking place. It will be obvious to some churches; it will be more subtle to others. Simply stated, churches will have an incredible window of opportunity to make substantive and positive changes.

We have been watching closely the responses of congregations and their leaders during the pandemic. We have surveyed thousands of them during our webinars. There seems to be little doubt. God is using this difficult season to prepare churches for unprecedented opportunities.

Why is the window of opportunity opening right now? Of course, the correct answer and perspective is that God is opening the window for our churches. But it is fascinating to see specifically how He is working in our congregations. I see at least five reasons for this new and exciting opportunity.

1. *Church members are more unified in the midst of the challenges. This crisis has brought our congregations together. Nitpicking and self-serving has transitioned to praying and serving. More of our members are focused beyond themselves. God is preparing them to move in greater passion and obedience to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.*

2. *Our congregations have been exposed to a variety of worship experiences. Have you ever seen a church member's perspective and attitude change dramatically for the better when*

he or she went on a mission trip? That church member becomes aware of a world and cultures dramatically different from her own. Our church members have been exposed to hundreds of streaming worship services. Many of them look and sound nothing like their own. Their world has expanded for the better.

3. *Many church members have already made changes. I received a comment from an older church member who made the transition to digital giving during the pandemic. His words were likely meant to be humorous: "I swore I would never give online because I was certain it was the abode of the devil." His willingness to change to digital giving is but a microcosm of the changes many church members have already made. They will likely be receptive and prepared for even more change.*

4. *The community is more receptive. In most communities, those who don't attend church have been watching streaming worship services. Many of the residents of these communities have requested prayer. Many churches have been highly intentional to reach out to members of the community. The window of opportunity is wide open in these communities.*

5. *Church members are anticipating and celebrating re-gathering in person. They are more in the mood of joy and celebration rather than complaining and nitpicking. They are not nearly as focused on themselves. This pandemic has made them realize that their churches, as imperfect as they are, truly are blessings from God. They are not taking their churches for granted.*

It is indeed a window of opportunity. If past major events are indicative, this window of opportunity will remain open for several months to a year. God has given us an opportunity. We cannot and must not let it go to waste.

David

Church Contributions

	Jun 20	Jan-Jun 20
Beaverdam	224.49	1,286.17
Belmont	0.00	0.00
Bethel	269.00	1,270.00
Bethlehem	0.00	0.00
Calvary	100.48	631.93
Chauga	46.49	420.81
Cheohee	200.00	1,340.00
Clearmont	0.00	1,835.17
College Street	0.00	1,896.24
Coneross	75.00	450.00
Corinth - Seneca	0.00	450.00
Corinth - Westminster	0.00	999.78
Cross Roads - Seneca	105.84	792.96
Cross Roads - Westminster	100.00	600.00
Damascus	0.00	100.00
Davis Creek	44.72	503.27
Earle's Grove	1,477.37	7,376.95
Ebenezer	0.00	1,600.00
Faith	0.00	0.00
Fants Grove	0.00	2,288.89
Golden Corner	0.00	0.00
Heart Land	128.00	706.00
Hepsibah	780.34	4,682.04
Holly Springs	660.00	2,885.32
Hopewell	510.09	1,786.39
Iglesia Bautista Bethel	0.00	0.00
Little River	0.00	0.00
Long Creek	167.00	1,002.00
Lydia	0.00	1,135.36
Maranatha	99.56	470.38
Monte Vista	25.00	150.00
Mountain Rest	878.74	4,289.49
Mountain View	100.00	600.00
Mt. Freedom	300.00	600.00
Mt. Pleasant	333.32	1,166.62
Mt. Tabor	144.17	1,034.01
New Hope	457.00	1,940.17
Old Liberty	209.66	1,884.29
Open Door	125.00	750.00
Pleasant Grove	0.00	245.85
Pleasant Hill	100.00	500.00
Pleasant Ridge	500.00	3,000.00
Poplar Springs	784.87	2,795.94
Puerta Abierta	0.00	0.00
Reedy Fork	713.71	1,762.34
Retreat	0.00	0.00
Return	1,154.31	5,930.26
Rock Hill	0.00	400.00
Rocky Knoll	423.65	3,233.64
Salem	1,250.01	3,749.99
Scenic Heights	300.00	1,800.00
Seneca	1,158.84	7,490.32
Shiloh	0.00	0.00
Snow Creek	0.00	1,382.96
Souls Harbor	143.00	858.00
South Union	249.66	1,080.16
Utica	1,449.21	8,388.49
Walhalla	100.00	300.00
Welcome	275.00	1,384.25
West Union	0.00	0.00
Westminster	0.00	2,500.00
Westminster First	125.00	750.00
Wolf Stake	193.00	519.00
Total	16,481.53	96,995.44
Other Contributions		
Church at the Well		550.00
Personal Donations		316.00
Total Income	16,481.53	97,861.44

Church News



Staff Changes:

Rev. Harvey Hughes retired from **Faith Baptist Church**.
 Rev. Brian Goss resigned from **Lydia Baptist Church**.
 Dr. Doug Thompson resigned from **Rocky Knoll Baptist Church**. He has accepted a pastorate in Georgia.

Staff Needed:

Rocky Knoll is seeking the following ministry positions: Interim Pastor, Interim Youth Leader (part-time), Interim Minister of Music (part-time), and Associate Pastor of Worship and Student Minister (full-time). Applicants may send resumes to geadeskelley@hotmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Walhalla, SC is seeking a part time (20 hr. per week) secretary. Please send resume to First Baptist Church at PO Box 589, Walhalla, SC or bring it by the office on Monday-Thursday between the hours of 10:00-2:00 pm. The church is located at 503 East Main Street, Walhalla, SC.



With Deepest Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to Pastor Jeff Whaley (Cheohee Baptist Church) in the passing of his father Mr. Jerry Frank Whaley.

The August Men's Ministry Quarterly Fellowship is cancelled.

Annual Church Profiles

The South Carolina Baptist Convention will release the 2020 annual church profiles in August.

The ACP can be accessed online at <https://www.sbcworkspace.com/> or paper copies will be available at the association office.

For more information, visit <http://www.beaverdamassoc.com/> or contact Emily Anderson, 882-7070.



The Youth Group of Shiloh Baptist Church in Seneca, recently delivered snacks to the officers and staff of the Seneca Police Department.

The youth expressed their gratitude to the officers for their service to the community. The youth chose a verse from the Bible (Matthew 5:9) to express their sentiments: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." Shiloh (a historically white church) and Nebo Baptist Church (a historically black church) hold annual unity services as a reminder that we are one in God's love, and to promote a vision of unifying Christians in the face of racial and political discord.

Beaverdam Baptist Association

Staff

David Shirley, Director of Missions,
bbadavid@bellsouth.net

Emily Anderson, Ministry Assistant,
bbaemily@bellsouth.net

Jackie Spearman, Custodian
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Phone: (864) 882-7070
Website: www.beaverdamassoc.com

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Date

- 3 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BMC, 9:00 AM
- 5 – GTN Articles Due
- 10 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BMC, 9:00 AM
- 17 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BMC, 9:00 AM
- 24 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BMC, 9:00 AM
- 31 – Pastors' Prayer Time, BMC, 9:00 AM

BMC = Beaverdam Mission Center
215 N Townville St, Seneca, SC

Special Days in August

Staff Anniversaries:

- 11 – Ryan Goodroe, Utica, 2013
- 12 – Kevin Phillips, Mountain Rest, 2018
- 19 – Jeromy Dean, Bethel, 2019
- 30 – John McKnight, Hepsibah, 1987

Birthdays:

- 11 – Ray Campbell, retired
- 11 – Jeremy Garrett, Open Door
- 12 – Evan Bate, Corinth-Seneca
- 15 – Tim Sheriff, Poplar Springs
- 31 – Scott Lee, Return

Wedding Anniversaries:

- 2 – Tony & Pam Grant, retired
- 4 – Edward & Pat Hyde, retired
- 15 – Jewell & Ann Gaines, retired
- 16 – Dale & Marianne McCoig, Clearmont
- 24 – Ronnie & Sheila Wald, Snow Creek
- 26 – Ray & Delores Campbell, retired
- 26 – Don & Linda Drawdy, retired