



Greetings THRIVE Family,

March 25, 2020

It goes without saying that the past 2 weeks have shown us a side of life that most of us have never experienced. Together, we continue to navigate uncharted waters, but all the while, we trust our Captain! It is my ongoing prayer that *“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7)*. As we have rehearsed numerous times lately - the Lord is in control! Jesus told His followers, *“These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me** you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy], I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)*. THRIVE Family, let’s cling to these timeless, life-sustaining truths!

When will we gather together again corporately?

As you have heard, the governor has closed schools in the state of Virginia for the remainder of the academic year. We are not sure how this will impact our future use of the school facilities on Sundays, but as we want to abide by the recommendation to not gather publicly, this right now is not an issue. Please continue to pray for God’s timing for us to return to the school on Sundays. Also pray for the school administration and staff as they work through many changes and challenges as well.

THRIVE Live?

In the meantime, viewership online has never been so high! I encourage you to continue to spread the word and invite folks to gather with us online. We will continue to live stream each Sunday morning via Facebook Live (which you can access even if you don’t have a Facebook account - simply Google “THRIVE Christian Fellowship King George Facebook” and click to watch.) We are also working on other options for live streaming that we hope to make available soon. You can still access the audio message (moments after the service is over) from our website and mobile app.

How do we VITALIZE authentic, close-knit relationships in Christian community now?

I get it - the screen is not the best way to go to heartily engage in the ‘one-another’ ministries. But let’s be thankful it is an option to serve us for now! We will implement Zoom Video Conferencing as a platform for our THRIVE Groups so that our discussion and prayer time can continue, where we can build into and encourage one another. (We hope to have this up and going before the Spring Semester kicks off next week; you’ll get more information about this.)

We know folks are tuning in to hear the Word, and that is good. But like we talked about last Sunday (and will talk about more this coming Sunday), we want to be living and doing the Word, not just hearing it, and each of us needs to play a part in that. Let’s remember that we are called to **Reproduce** servants and **Equip** saints to grow and walk victoriously and fruitfully. Praying together or engaging in Bible study or discussion via the phone or FaceTime *can* work! Perhaps start something new in this area during this time of ‘quarantine’ that you can continue face-to-face one day soon!

How do we IMPACT King George and beyond now?

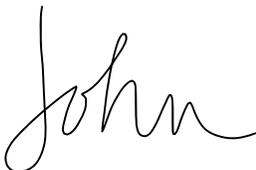
We are still the church on mission. Pray for God to reveal anyone in *your* sphere of influence that needs to be checked on - and reach out! Call friends and neighbors and offer to pray with them. See if anyone needs provisions, and point them to the resources we've put out. Offer to help them, and share with them as you are able. If you have questions, if *you* need help, or if you know someone that does, please let us know!

We have been asked by KGES to assist with their lunch distribution, and we have begun to do this. If you feel comfortable helping in this way (with safety precautions being followed), please let us know (info@thrivekg.org.) Our local Food Pantry, Love Thy Neighbor, also has an ongoing need for more volunteers. If you'd like to help, let us know. As more opportunities arise, we will let you know.

And most importantly, never have so many people needed to hear the good news, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as they do now. Many are struggling with despair and feelings of hopelessness and even fear, while we are sustained by a truth that sets people free! Pray for a greater burden for the souls of those in our area, and boldly welcome the opportunity to share the truth, love, and hope found in Christ alone.

Continue to stay connected via our website, mobile app, Facebook Page, and email updates, so you can know what is happening. Also, I encourage you to visit our website and review our vision and 6 core values. Be in prayer about how God wants to use you, even in the midst of COVID-19, to grow in these values AND to minister to others! As always, if we can help you in any way, please let us know!

Love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor John