Hello and happy, hot summer to all of you.

I need to give an update on Backyard Bible Club. There has been a lot of excitement about this idea since presented; however, the timing of it does not seem to present itself as being a good thing at the moment. Partly because there are certain things that have to be prepared a couple of months in advance, that we simply cannot do right now. Partly, because of the uncertainty of the future. Mostly, because we do not want to be a poor example in the community. There is already an unfavorable look and attitude towards the church for just meeting in person once again. We do not want to create more adversity by imposing upon others for the sake of "doing" church in the community. Paul wrote to Timothy, concerning the overseer, "And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil" (1 Timothy 3:7). I believe we can apply this to the church as well. We want to have a good reputation in our community. We want to reach out to them, but we need to do it when it will be received well and appreciated, and right now, it will not be received well.

So, what do we do? There is a silver lining in all this. Those who have worked VBS for years now have a break. It should not be a break from study or from the Lord, but a break from the doing of certain work of the church. This is also a time for us to take very seriously our position in the world. Individually, we are responsible to share the love of God and the Gospel of Christ with those around us. This is where we pick up the slack. We intentionally let others know of the hope that exists in us (1 Peter 3:15).

Please continue to pray for the elders and deacons as we attempt to navigate the maze of uncertainty with Covid-19. Pray for us to know how and when to begin AWANA. Pray for us to seek the Lord in all things that we not let fear, selfish ambition, or tradition dictate what we do. We pray for your safety and well-being as well as your continual growth in Christ.

By grace,
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