

# The Good News Grapevine

Volume 61, Issue 4

## KERN COUNTY SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### APRIL 2020

#### *IN THIS ISSUE*



**Message From Dr. Bennett**



**Financial Budget and  
Calendar of Events**



**List of Resources**



**How Your Church Can Access Funding**



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

## ***A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM*** **Dr. Randy L. Bennett**

### *April!*

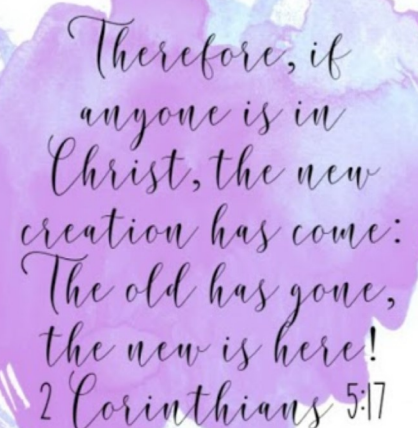
*“The Governor and the President have cancelled April!”* You don’t read those headlines every day. These are

unbelievable times. Even as a child growing up in the **1950’s** there was some fear that we might come down with polio. There were adults and even older children who had been struck with polio. I clearly remember being marched into my school auditorium where we were given various injections including the polio vaccine. I remember the cries of my fellow students as they stood in line for their shots.

In the **1960’s** we dealt with the fear of the nuclear bomb as we wrestled for power with the Soviet Union. We had regular fallout drills in school. Some homes had underground vaults built for protection in case of nuclear war. In time we were blessed with the polio vaccine. We were blessed when President Reagan said: “Tear down those walls”. We were able to relax for a while.

*And then the year 2020 came.* Our sense that we were invulnerable was suddenly shattered as we began to hear reports from China about a new killer virus. Slowly we’ve seen the number of people coming down with illness grow, so has the death count. In the USA we are facing a massive acceleration in the disease in the next month or so.

I am part of the 65+-year-old adults with health issues that have been told to stay at home. It’s a bit disconcerting and lonely. I have been blessed to have a smart phone, computer, Zoom, and Facebook. I have been able to watch many of our church’s worship services. The thing that has blessed me the most is the courage, tenacity, and intentionality of our Pastors, Church leaders, and Church Members.



Therefore, if  
anyone is in  
Christ, the new  
creation has come:  
The old has gone,  
the new is here!  
2 Corinthians 5:17

During the first week of the mandated shut down of public meetings with more than ten people, these wonderful people got busy planning how to go online with their worship services, Bible Studies, and how to set up online giving to the church. Others have used Facebook Live to create support groups and even Children's Worship Service. During week number two of the mandate, these people got busy creating ways to stay in touch with their full membership using various text messaging programs as well as increase the number of online classes.

One of my life verses is *Joshua 1:6-7*: “*Be strong and of good courage*, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. *Only be strong and very courageous*, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.”

There are two key words in this passage: *strength and courage*. Where do those qualities come from? Simply stated those qualities come from God. They are encouraged by time in God's Word and time spent following/obeying God's Word. In spite of the coronavirus the body of Christ is still mandated by God to make disciples, baptize the new believers, and train them in the Word of God so they too can have strength and courage to face the challenge of life. Whether we fulfill the Great Commission online, on the telephone, or in person the mandate doesn't change. Thank you for showing so much courage and strength during this trying time. You have inspired me throughout the course of this health crisis.

*Thank you for being you.*

Your Missionary,

*Dr. Randy L. Bennett*

*And they found  
the stone rolled  
away from the  
tomb, but when  
they went in they  
did not find the  
body of the Lord  
Jesus.  
Luke 24:2-3*



## MARCH 2020 FINANCIALS

Financials are based upon contributions received by the last work-day of the month. Any contributions received after the last day of the month will be accounted for in the next months financials.

<b>Income from Churches for March 2020</b>	<b>2020 Monthly Budget Projection</b>	<b>Difference for this month</b>
8,916.48	\$ 12,285.60	-3,369.12

<b>Income from Churches for 2020 YTD</b>	<b>2020 YTD Budget Projection</b>	<b>Difference YTD</b>
\$28,480.93	\$36,856.80	-\$8,375.87

*We sincerely thank the following churches and missions for their contributions to help us reach of budgeted goal for the month of February.*

Bakersfield Korean Baptist Church  
 Buttonwillow Comm Baptist Church  
 Crossover Church of Rosedale  
 Columbus Street Baptist Church  
 Country Oaks Baptist Church  
 Daybreak Baptist Church  
 Fairview So Baptist Church  
 Fellowship Baptist Church  
 First Baptist Church, Edison  
 First Baptist Church, Kernville  
 First Baptist Church, Lake Isabella

First So Baptist Church, Taft  
 First So Baptist Hispanic Church  
 Grace Baptist Church  
 Griffith Avenue Baptist Church  
 Harmony So Baptist Church  
 Height Street Baptist Church  
 Jesus Aqua Viva  
 Mountain View So Baptist Church  
 Resurrection Church  
 Set Free Christian Fellowship  
 Valley Baptist Church  
 Vision Plus Church

*Working together to spread the Gospel of Christ . . .  
 Thank you for your giving!*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## APRIL



**Palm Sunday, April 5**  
**Good Friday, April 10**  
**Easter Sunday, April 12**



**KCSBA 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Committee/Council Meeting via ZOOM**  
**Tuesday, April 7**

**KCSBA Semi-Annual Meeting - This has been cancelled**

**Pastor's Breakfast**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Tuesday Mornings**



# Christ is Risen!

## This is a list of Resources that we borrowed from Valley Baptist to share with our member churches for distributing as needed to your congregation.

### FOOD RESOURCES

#### **CAPK Food Bank**

Drive thru commodity distribution pick up at the following locations with times:

Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11am-1pm, West High School (1200 New Stine Rd)

Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm, East High School (2200 Quincy St)

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm, Bakersfield High School (1241 G St)

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm, South High School (1101 Planz Rd)

Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm, North High School (300 Galaxy Ave)

This will be an ongoing distribution for the next couple of weeks. They will bring pallets of food to distribute to about 115 households at each site from 11am to 1 pm and the plan is to have volunteers make boxes of food to hand out in a drive thru fashion. It will be first come first serve.

#### **KHSD sites**

A bag that includes a sack lunch and a cold breakfast for the following day will be handed out from 11-1 at all KHSD sites to children ages 2-18 (including 18). Children and youth may come with or without parents, but must be present to receive meals. This will take place M-F until Easter Break.

**Gleaners Food Bank** (1326 30<sup>th</sup> St, Bakersfield, CA 93301)

Families or students (15 & older) may arrive at 7:30 am and volunteer an hour of time and will receive a week's worth of food.

**CSUB Food Pantry Center** (9001 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield, CA 93311)

Allowed 1 visit per week. Mon-Thurs 10am-7pm, Friday 10am-3pm

#### **Boys & Girls Clubs**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County is expanding meal service to children in the community starting Wednesday, 3/18/20. The meals will be made available to all children, without any eligibility documentation, who are 18 years of age and younger due to the COVID-19 outbreak. For non-Club members, the meals will be "to go." Locations:

#### **David Head Center**

**10300 San Diego Street, Lamont, Ca. 93241**

Supper Meal Service – 2 p.m.

Snack Meal Service – 4 p.m.

Arvin Children's Center

800 Walnut Drive, Arvin, Ca. 93203

Supper Meal Service – 2 p.m.

Snack Meal Service – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Lamont Club**

**8301 Segrue Road, Lamont, Ca 93241**

Breakfast Meal Service – 10 a.m.

Supper Meal Service – 3 p.m.

Armstrong Youth Center

801 Niles Street, Bakersfield, Ca 93305

Breakfast Meal Service – 10 a.m.

Supper Meal Service 3 p.m.

#### **Stockdale Club**

**5207 Young Street, Bakersfield, Ca 93311**

Breakfast Meal Service – 10 a.m.

Supper Meal Service – 3 p.m.

List continued on next page ...

## FOOD RESOURCES Continued:

**Compassion Christian Center** (1030 4<sup>th</sup> St, Bakersfield, CA 93304)

Meals will be served Wednesdays at 9:30am

**St. Vincent de Paul Church** (300 Baker St, Bakersfield, CA 93305)

Meals will be served Monday-Friday at 9am & 12pm, and Saturday at 9am.

**Bakersfield Family Church** (105 Wilson Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308)

Meals served every Tuesday from 11am-1pm.

**The Mission Homeless Shelter** (816 E 21<sup>st</sup> St, Bakersfield, CA 93305)

Meals served daily at 6:30am, 11am, & 5pm.

### **Blessing Box Foundation**

Box/pantries at each of the following locations - non-perishables can be donated and/or taken by those in need.

Locations

First Congregational Church, 5 Real Rd, Bakersfield, CA 93309

Sleepy Baby Box Foundation, 3803 Union Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93305

Bakersfield Family Church, 105 Wilson Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308

Calvary Full Gospel Church of Oildale, 222 Circle Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93308

American Hotel, 910 Baker St, Bakersfield, CA 93305

Dial 211: [www.kerncounty211.org](http://www.kerncounty211.org)

## PG&E INFORMATION

Below are some of the provisions being made by PG&E for customers. These new guidelines became effective immediately (*received in an email dated 3/25/20*):

- PG&E announced it had voluntarily implemented a moratorium on service disconnections for non-payment. This suspension will apply to both residential and commercial customers and will remain in effect until further notice.
- PG&E has outlined a series of billing and service modifications to support customers who have been impacted by the virus. However, customers must self-certify that they are experiencing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 so their accounts can be flagged, please ask them to call 1-800-743-5000. If they register, customers will be able to receive the following:
  - PG&E is offering flexible payment plans.
  - PG&E is waiving reconnection fees and return check fees.
  - PG&E is waiving new security deposits for up to one year.
- All PG&E customer service centers were closed as of Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> in accordance with social distancing measures. Customers who typically pay their bills at one of these centers can:
  - call 1-877-704-8470
  - mail payments to PG&E, P.O. Box 997300, Sacramento, CA 95899
  - go to [pge.com](http://pge.com) to learn how to pay online or to find nearby Neighborhood Payment Centers

## KERN COUNTY ESSENTIAL SERVICES

BAKERSFIELD, Calif.,- (Monday March 16, 2020) Due to the quickly changing situation related to the Coronavirus, Kern County has declared a local emergency effective immediately. Beginning tonight, Monday March 16 at 5:00 PM, Kern County will move to an essential-staffing only model until April 14 at 8:00 AM. Most County buildings will be closed to the public with only essential services being offered.

Essential county services that will be available between March 17 and April 14 are listed below, otherwise please call a specific department or check its website to inquire about available services. For links and information, go to <http://www.kerncounty.com/>.

**Public Safety:** Fire and Sheriff emergency services will be fully staffed. In case of an emergency, call 911. Substations will remain open, unless the courts close.

**Airports:** Will remain open and fully functional unless the FAA issues different instructions.

**Aging and Adult Services:** Meals on Wheels deliveries will continue as normally scheduled, Senior Centers will be closed to protect our most vulnerable population from community spread. Will have minimal staffing for Adult Protect Services and Conservatorship.

**Agricultural Commissioner's Office:** Will conduct exotic pest trap services and provide export certification inspections for produce shippers as needed.

**Animal Services:** Local animal shelters will close to the public. Essential functions such as licensing are available on-line. Animal Control Officers will be available on an emergency basis.

**Assessor/Recorder:** Assessor's Office is closed and the Recorder's Office is closed to walk-in customers. Many Recorder services can be performed online, by phone or by mail. Please visit our website for assistance: <http://assessor.co.kern.ca.us/>

**Auditor-Controller, County Clerk & Elections:** Elections will be open for observers.

**Behavioral Health & Recovery Services:** Crisis Hotline services will be uninterrupted and are available 24/7 at 800-991-5272. All clinics will remain open with minimal staffing and the mobile evaluation team will be operational.

**Child Support Services:** Bakersfield, Ridgecrest and Superior Court locations are closed. Online inquiries and requests are still being processed.

**District Attorney:** The District Attorney's Office and Kern Regional Crime Lab will continue all operations with minimal staffing levels, unless courts close. Limited access to lobby, call rather than walk-in.

**Employers Training Resource:** Closed





**Human Services:** All Critical services will be provided to the public through minimal staffing during the hours of 7:30 AM to 1 :00 PM. Services or information may be available by telephone by calling (661) 631-6000. Applications for benefits may be made on line by visiting the on line application website at [www.c4yourse1f.com](http://www.c4yourse1f.com). Applications for CalFresh may be made by phone at (661) 631-6062 and applications for Medi-Cal benefits can be made by calling 1-800-300-1506. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, please call the Child Abuse Hotline at (661) 631-6011 (Countywide) or (760) 375-6049 in Ridgecrest. Reports for child abuse can be made at any time.

**Library:** Closed. Checked out materials will not be due during days the library is closed. In the meantime, our elibrary is always open! Visit [kerncountylibrary.org/elibrarv](http://kerncountylibrary.org/elibrarv) to get started checking out eBooks, eAudiobooks, and more!

**Parks Facilities:** County Parks will be open and Park Rangers will be patrolling. Overnight camping is not available at this time. Rangers and parks attendants will be at gates.

**Planning & Natural Resources:** Closed to walk-ins, hearings are cancelled, limited staffing to take calls. No new permitting applications except oil and gas which can be done online.

**Property Tax Payments:** The Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office will be closed. Taxpayers may submit taxes online at <http://www.kcttc.co.kern.ca.us/Payment/mainsearch.aspx> and through mail. April 10 deadline will stand. Don't send cash through the mail.

**Probation:** Facility will remain fully-staffed, unless the court closes. If they close, minimal staffing.

**Public Defender:** All cases and court dates will continue as previously scheduled, unless the court closes. If courts close, buildings will also close and run minimal staffing. Phone appointments where possible.

**Public Health:** Closed to public. Labs will remain open and birth and death certificates will be processed. Call center and EMS will remain fully functional.

**Public Works:** Roads and landfills will be operational, building inspection will be done with minimal staffing. Construction Inspection, Transit Cash Counting and Transportation Permits all available.

**Recorder/Assessor:** Recorder is open, for now, and all services will be provided. The Assessor will remain closed.

**Street Repair Requests:** Kern County Public Works will maintain essential services including road maintenance and flood control as needed.

**Veterans Services:** All offices will be closed to the public. Services will be offered through phone appointments and interviews. Documents can be dropped off at the Bakersfield location.

**Waste Management:** Landfill and collection services will continue at regular staffing.

## RESOURCES FOR EAST KERN (INCLUDING TEHACHAPI)

East Kern has the following resources available for families affected by school closures or families in need of food. Currently Tehachapi and Ridgecrest have prepackaged breakfast and dinner that can be picked up at school. (Details below.) Some programs are still in the process of being rolled out, so more information will be forthcoming from school districts.

### ***Salvation Army***

Eastern Kern	Tehachapi Service Center	Ridgecrest
15662 K St, Mojave	538 Tehachapi Blvd	151 North Downs St
661-824-2100	661-823-9508	760-375-7219

### ***Tehachapi Unified School District***

Tompkins Elementary School (1120 S Curry St, Tehachapi, CA 93561 – 661-822-2170)

Pick up pre-bagged breakfast and lunch between 11:45am and 12:15pm

Jacobsen Middle School (711 Anita Dr, Tehachapi, CA 93561 – 661-822-2150)

Pick up pre-bagged breakfast and lunch between 11am and 12pm

Golden Hills Elementary School (20215 Park Rd, Tehachapi, CA 93561 – 661-822-2180)

Pick up pre-bagged breakfast and lunch between 11am and 11:30am

### ***Sierra Sands Unified School District (Ridgecrest)***

Curbside pick up: breakfast 8-9:30am, lunch 11am-1pm

Inyokern Elementary School (6601 Locust Ave, Inyokern, CA 93527 – 760-499-1683)

Faller Elementary School (1500 W Upjohn Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 – 760-499-1690)

Pierce Elementary School (674 N Gold Canyon, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 – 760-499-1670)

James Monroe Middle School (340 W Church Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 – 760-499-1830)

***Mojave Unified School District*** – Food program starting March 24

***Southern Kern Unified School District (Rosamond)***– TBD

***Muroc Joint Unified School District (Boron, Edwards, North Edwards)*** – TBD

**LINK TO RESOURCES IN THE LA AREA:** <http://kids-alliance.org/covid-19/>





## HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN ACCESS FUNDING Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

CityServe is a collaborative network that equips and resources churches to transform families and cities with the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. The president has signed the S.3578 “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” or the “CARES Act” today.

Learn what this Act means for your church.

### 11 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

**1. The bill includes churches, nonprofits, Christian schools that are 501c3s, and small businesses.** It provides loans to these organizations to help them through the period of time between February 15, 2020 to June 30, 2020. There is approximately \$349B set aside for this program.

**2. Employers with up to 500 employees (500 people at one location\*) are eligible.**

**3. Loan funds can be used to cover the following expenses:**

- Payroll costs
- Group health insurance benefits, paid sick leave, medical and insurance premium
- Mortgage or rent payments
- Utilities
- Interest on any other debt obligations that were incurred before the loan period\*\*

**4. Payroll costs to include:**

- Salary or wages, payments of a cash tip
- Vacation, parental, family, medical, and sick leave
- Health benefits
- Retirement benefits
- State and local taxes
- Limited up to \$100K annual salary/wage for each employee
- Note: There is no clarification at this time on pastoral housing allowances

**5. The loan amount shall be the following:**

Total average monthly payroll costs for the preceding 12 months (March 2019 to February 2020) multiplied by 2.5



**6. Lenders will most likely be your current banker.** They will receive funding from the Small Business Administration. So, contact whoever you currently have your bank accounts with today and see if they are participating in the Small Business Administration loans provided in the CARES Act

**7. No loan payments under this program are due for one year.** No fees are included in the loan.

### 8. Good Faith Certification

You will need to certify the loan will be used for the following:

- Support ongoing operations
- Funds used to retain workers and maintain payroll or make mortgage, lease, and utility payments.

### 9. Calculation of Loan Forgiveness

The full amount of the loan can be forgiven, given some parameters. Essentially, the loan is forgivable if you employed the same number of people during the loan period as you did last year.

Full-Time Equivalent Employee (FTE) (as defined in section 45R(d)(2) of 11 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)

The goal of this loan is for your 2020 FTEs to be equal to or greater than your 2019 FTEs. Essentially, they want you to have equal to or more employees from February 15, 2020, to June 30, 2020, as you did last year from February 15, 2019, to June 30, 2019. If you will have fewer employees in 2020 than in 2019, then you need to complete a calculation:

Average FTEs per month in 2020 from February 15, 2020-June 30, 2020 / (divided by)  
Average FTEs per month in 2019 from February 15, 2019-June 30, 2019

**10. No collateral or personal guarantees will be required by board members, trustees, or owners.** Normally in small business loans, an owner or board member has to sign a personal guarantee to acquire the loan. If the loan is not repaid, then the owner or board member has to personally make good on the loan amount to the bank. Again, no personal risk for business owners or board members.



### 11. Funds that are not forgiven have a loan maturity of 10 years.

We currently do not know the interest rate of this loan but given that the repayment will be spread over 10 years, the church or nonprofit's monthly payment to repay this loan will be very low.

\*Disclaimer: This information is based on CityServe's early understanding of this bill as of March 27, 2020.



Wishing everyone a  
Healthy Blessed Easter!

During these social distancing times Dawn will be in the office

Monday - Friday 7am - 12:noon

If Needed, Please contact her via email at [DPassmore2@bak.rr.com](mailto:DPassmore2@bak.rr.com)

Or text at 661-337-0502



## DO THE FIVE

Help stop coronavirus

- 1 HANDS** Wash them often
- 2 ELBOW** Cough into it
- 3 FACE** Don't touch it
- 4 SPACE** Keep safe distance
- 5 HOME** Stay if you can

## Romans 15:13

The God of my hope fills me  
with joy and peace  
as I trust in Him,  
so that I may overflow  
with hope  
by the power of the  
Holy Spirit.