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Prayer Letter – April 2020

In a few weeks my wife, Sharon, and I will celebrate 45 years in full-time ministry. In those four and half decades I have never experienced anything like what our nation—and the world—is presently experiencing! The challenges and changes we are confronting certainly affected local churches: preaching in an empty auditorium, receiving tithes and offerings online, and the inability to fellowship together as a church family, just to name a few!

Assuredly every local church has had to face tough decisions regarding the most effective ways to do ministry. Hearing from church planters and pastors as I do, I know the past several weeks have been both perplexing, and yet enlightening! Overall, I believe this experience has helped us to become more creative, courageous, and confident (in the Lord!). Change can be good as long as God is directing it. He often uses curious vehicles to drive us into a season of reflection and reassessment. May we all learn while we are on this journey is my prayer!

Please pray seriously for new church plants, and many smaller congregations. My observation is that these are the churches—and preachers—that are struggling. Most are led by a single pastor (often bivocational), and lacking in committed, mature members to assist. Many new churches in particular possess a high number of new converts (that's a good thing!); however, many are not yet faithful with their stewardship responsibilities (and that's not a good thing)!

In Him,
Charles T. Shoemaker
President

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\$90.00