



## First Quarter at River Valley: January February March 2020

Dear River Valley Family:

Well... what can be said about the times in which we are living? Usually this quarterly report is filled with 3 months' worth of developments and new ministry ideas and directions. I think we can say that was the case for January and February, but in March, things took a dramatic change in direction for all of us. So here is what has transpired from my view during the first quarter of 2020. I do know this... God is still mightily at work in and through River Valley during these troubled times.

- Nancy and I were thrilled to host a wonderful trip to Israel in January. It was extremely enjoyable to travel with a group that was so positive. All participants agreed that it was truly an eye-opening and spiritually maturing experience. They have set the bar high for future groups... 2022?
- Our assistant district superintendent met with Pastors regarding church planting in February. Church growth stats show that the most adult conversions come from the planting and establishment of new churches. The Western Great Lakes District has its eye on 17 new church plant possibilities over the next several years. This is definitely on my prayer radar.
- The Elders will assume the following roles for this year: Administration: Chris Mertens, Missions/Prayer: Justin Roberts, Assimilation (Ushers and Greeters): Bill Richter, Counseling Visitation: Dominic Alvarez, and Worship: Matt Colosky
- In early March, I attended the Exponential Conference in Orlando. Over 5,000 ministry leaders gathered for three days to hear ideas on new and more efficient ways to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I came home ready to get back to work!
- And then came COVID. On the first Sunday affected by COVID, I gave the following hopes and expectations for what I had hoped would be continued gatherings... Trust God and Wash your hands.
- The next Sunday was our first online worship service. This time I added to my expectation list, Trust God, wash your hands, and just go quietly on. Our ministry team and office staff have all risen to the new challenges that have come in our direction in these very weird times. We've all done things and will continue to do things that we never thought would be part of our ministry. I am grateful to my wife, Nancy, for stepping up to coordinate volunteers.
- The River Valley family has reacted well and generously during this time. This has been not only with money, but willingness to serve others in many and various ways, all the while, continuing to raise up the name of Jesus.

In conclusion, I am reminded of an old saying I learned years ago, "I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I know WHO holds tomorrow. This is an excellent time for all of us to be practicing the very real presence of Jesus in our lives. We must continue to have the reason for our hope on the tip of our tongues! We live in a world where the majority have no clue of what's available.

Joyfully Serving!

David Zimmermann, Senior Pastor

## **River Valley Alliance Church**

### **Governing Board Quarterly Update**

#### **First Quarter, 2020**

The Governing Board meets on the third Thursday of each month to fulfill its duties as the governance authority of River Valley Alliance Church. The following were some of the significant activities of the Church in the first quarter of 2020:

River Valley was pleased to once again host Teen Challenge in January.

The February Governing Board meeting contained an orientation for all members. New members who were welcomed to the Governing Board were as follows: Bill Richter, Elder; Jason Culotta, Treasurer; Diane Fraley, Assistant Treasurer; Todd Grady, Head Trustee. Deacon Don Vehlow will be transitioning into the position as representative to the Governing Board.

Security cameras have been approved and installed throughout the building.

With the coming of COVID 19 many activities were cancelled. All in-person services, classes for Adults, Youth and Children, and events for men's, women's, and senior ministry are on hiatus. The June Mission Trip to Thailand has been postponed. The district conference that was to be held the last weekend in April at River Valley will not be held. Instead, the meeting will be held online. Listed are the plans for ministry moving forward:

-For services... In answer to COVID 19, the staff will produce a weekly YouTube video of services and various learning opportunities. Pastor Atkins created a studio for recording and uploading services to YouTube using the mixing board, the sanctuary pc, a webcam, microphones, and other a/v equipment. There is one recording day where the worship, sermon, and announcements/welcome is recorded. Pastor Atkins then edits the pieces of audio and video together to create a cohesive service that mirrors a typical Sunday service. This is then uploaded to YouTube. To limit the number of people in a small recording studio, Betsy and Brian Gerike have agreed to lead worship for the duration of this situation. They also recorded a DVD of more traditional songs for those who prefer this style. A DVD with both the service and adult Sunday school is made and distributed to individuals who lack the capability/equipment to access YouTube.

-For the Youth... Pastor Golemi puts out 4 to 5 short teaching videos and Sunday School each week. Sunday evening youth group has been meeting electronically on Sunday evening by utilizing Zoom.

-For the Children... Appleton Alliance has been producing an elementary lesson each Sunday that includes kid's worship, discovery time, and a lesson. Mrs. Walker and Ella create a preschool Discovery Land that has worship, puppet shows, discovery time, and a shorter, age-appropriate lesson time for this age group. Mrs. Walker has daily activities on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. In addition, she has Wednesday Devotions for Kids and Snack and Story Time on Fridays when she reads a story via Zoom.

While so many churches struggle with finances, it is excellent that River Valley has no debt! River Valley purposed to eliminate a loan several years ago and has maintained a debt-free position since. As we are meeting less frequently in the church building than we'd like, cost-saving measures have been implemented and spending reduced. Combined with a miraculous increase in income, we are a net 9% better than budget for the first quarter even with the last three COVID-affected Sundays in March.

Submitted by,

David Zimmermann – Senior Pastor  
Charlene Flint – Secretary  
Jason Culotta – Treasurer  
Dominic Alvarez – Elder  
Matt Colosky – Elder  
Bill Richter – Elder

Chris Mertens - Elder  
Justin Roberts - Elder  
Diane Fraley – Assistant Treasurer  
Jeremy Walker – Deacon/Deaconess Rep.  
Todd Grady – Trustee Representative