

July 21, 2020

Dear Crossroads Community Church,

I wanted to give a quick update on our current response to COVID 19 when it comes to in person services. First, let me just put it out there and then I'll share our rationale. We are going to suspend outdoor services for the rest of the summer and only have online services beginning this coming Sunday, July 26 through the month of August. There are many reasons why and I'll share some of them here:

1. It's stinking hot!!! As the temperature has gone up, the in-person numbers have gone down. When the weather was nice, we were having about 150 outside. As it started getting hot and everyone started chasing the shade, numbers have decreased to about 30 people this past Sunday.
2. Less than 10% of our members/attenders are joining us for in person services at this time and it requires a lot of energy and effort to pull a service off outside. It would be best to transfer that energy and effort towards our online services at this time.
3. Online services are doing very well as most are staying in and watching from home. Sunday, we reached over 2,500 people all across the state, country and world.
4. COVID cases in our area are on the rise. So, we just want to step back a bit.
5. I've learned a lot from the "not so good" experiences of many churches that opened their doors right away. I'm thankful that we are taking a more cautious approach.
6. I am confident that Crossroads Community Church will remain strong moving forward. With God's help, we will continue to thrive.

I know this might be frustrating to some people. Trust me, I get it! I miss each of you like crazy. There is nothing like seeing your real face, hearing your laugh when I share a stupid dad joke, watching the Spirit move in the room on people's hearts and hugging or high fiving so many of you weekly as you leave. I miss it so bad! Unfortunately, we have to make tough decisions sometimes that aren't always popular. I'm just thankful that Crossroads Community Church supports and prays for the Elders, Staff and myself through these decisions. Y'all are amazing!

We are also going to streamline our online service times. I will be live at 11:00am on Sunday mornings on all of our online platforms. It will be nice for us to all be watching live together and interacting online, even if it's just a quick "hello" before the service starts. As always though, the service will be archived on our YouTube and Facebook pages if you can't watch at 11:00am.

Lastly, I'm always watching what God is doing and He's up to so much right now. We've been able to do more for our community, more for Nicaragua, more for our neighbors individually, more with our friends at Calvary Chapel NN, more with people who wouldn't walk in a church ever, more baptisms and on and on. Amazing. Keep watching Him! Join in with what He's doing. Don't miss God's pause. There is a reason!

Love you all,

Pastor Aaron