

May 23, 2020

Hello Brethren,

Another week is already gone, and we are looking forward to the Feast of Pentecost next weekend! It is almost beyond comprehension that by the time we meet together for in-person Sabbath services again we will have spent a quarter of this year meeting only through webcasting! And sadly, there are parts of the world, and even other areas of this country, where it will be longer still. Some US congregations are in places where it may not be possible to begin meeting together again for another 4 to 6 weeks after we begin!

There are many details to sort out as we prepare to resume in-person services. I believe I mentioned before, as difficult as the decision to stop meeting together was, it seems to be more difficult and more challenging to get things set back up again! Mr. Franks and the men at headquarters are working hard to take careful, measured and wise steps. And I've met via webcast with our local leadership a couple of times as well to get their input on what we need and how best to go about things locally. As it takes many hands for services to run smoothly each week, so it takes many hands to get them going once again!

What are you looking forward to most when we come back together in our respective halls? I would imagine if we were to start making a list, there could be quite a few things we would put down. As I've dreamed about the Sabbaths after we start meeting again, one of the things I've thought about regularly and have really missed is the laughter. Do you remember when we were meeting before - seems like ages ago - what the room sounded like? Many times I've stood on the side and just listened. Dozens of brethren talking, but always laughter someplace in the room.

David's comments in Psalm 133:1 immediately jumps to my mind "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" I know this verse has a much wider scope than just the fellowship at Sabbath and Holy Day services, but coming together to worship our God is a large part of it!

Fellowship is so important for God's people to have together. We have had some of that over the last three months with phone calls, emails, social media posts, and even cards and letters. Those things are wonderful and special, and we recognize the love that was put into sending them to us. However, as wonderful as they are, they don't replace seeing one another and talking together in person.

As we look forward to seeing one another again, don't forget that our world is in distress, and many brethren around the world are suffering. Let's keep them in our prayers.

And look forward to the laughter!

Best regards,

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