

## Easter 2020 Under Quarantine

The challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic required our ECBA churches to come up with new ways to celebrate Easter. Many of our churches posted their Easter service on Facebook and/or YouTube; some for the first time and others who regularly do this. A few churches held “drive-in” services. New Day Baptist Church in Alexandria and Muncie had drive-in services on Easter Sunday. Old Town Hill Baptist Church in Muncie held a drive-in service on Good Friday.



*Old Town Hill Baptist Church in Muncie held a “drive-in” Good Friday service, following social distancing recommendations. Cars were placed 9 feet apart and given pre-packaged communion elements.*

The Covid-19 restrictions have caused challenges but also blessings. Here’s what Pastor Bruce Reynolds had to say about their adjustments because of the pandemic: *“In spite of this crazy virus God is at work in extremely powerful ways. We continue to see people come to Jesus in spite of the inability to gather corporately. We have, okay I have, had to learn to get out of my box and use technology. The last three weeks we have live-streamed and had anywhere from 1200 to 1400 views. Now I don’t know if that’s good or not, but that is quite a bit more than I preach to on a normal Sunday. For Good Friday, we had a drive-in service which included the Lord’s supper.”*

For Old Town Hill’s Good Friday drive-in worship service, Bruce stood on a trailer in the parking lot using a portable sound system to broadcast to the participants. They had cars park 9 feet apart and gave them prepackaged communion elements to use for the service. During the week, some of their groups are meeting via Zoom. The Children’s Director is using it regularly to stay connected with the children. Bruce also said that since the building is basically empty, they are going to take this opportunity to update the wiring and lights on the stage in their sanctuary.

### Disaster Relief Continues Ministry

Our Disaster Relief Team continues to minister throughout the Covid-19 pandemic following recommended safety guidelines. They have been able to put together a playground set for a child who is currently in remission from cancer. They built a wheelchair ramp for a 90 year old woman who had not been off her porch in 3 months. They also measured a home in preparation to make it more handicap assessable for a woman who has



*Children enjoy the new play set put together by our ECBA DR Team.*

2 daughters in motorized wheelchairs because of a spine issue at birth. ECBA DR Coordinator, Joe Fox, says, “What a wonderful blessing to be able to do God’s work!”

Muncie’s North Delaware Baptist Church Pastor, Jim Marlow, recorded his Easter message and posted it on Facebook. He and his wife, Jama, drove to members’ home to drop off prepackaged communion elements. Montpelier’s First Baptist Church said that they are also posting messages on Facebook. Pastor Jeremy Cowin prerecords them to post. Jeremy said they have also intentionally divided up members and asked them

*(Continued on page 3)*

<i>Inside This Issue</i>	
<a href="#">The Katecheo</a>	2
<a href="#">Birthdays/Anniversaries</a>	2
<a href="#">Upcoming Events</a>	2
<a href="#">January P &amp; L and Balance Reports</a>	3



Dr. Ron Ross

# The Katecheo

No one has ever experienced an Easter like the Easter of 2020, whether a Christian or an unbeliever. Covid-19 has definitely left its signature throughout the global world, giving no distinction to race, language, socio-economic status or age. As a result of its impact, the world stutters to explain the impact it has had on the social front, the economic front, not to mention the emotional and spiritual front. Panic and fear raised its head in the early days, with grocery stores being emptied of merchandise and service stations being drained of gasoline. In the midst of it all — what have we learned?

With the governmental restrictions placed on Americans, we all have one thing in common — plenty of time to think. Some of that thinking may involve the computer, and if so, it may have involved the listening to a number of preachers (perhaps our own pastor). As we have listened from preacher to preacher, we may have categorized them in a number of ways. Your Educational Coordinator categorized those he heard in a number of ways, such as how they related the worth of God’s Word. This can be shown in their demeanor and dress — do they come across to the listener as serious or a jokester? Do they show high value for the Word of God in how they dress in dignity or is it merely common place.

After that initial display of respect or lack there of, it becomes noteworthy as to their familiarity with the text of the message. Is it evident that the preacher has spent time with God and His Word in preparation? Is the message couched in the framework of God’s counsel or is it fashioned in the context of humor or some home-spun story? From personal observation, many of the messages are about the speaker and not about the One who needs to be uplifted. There is a reason why the Scriptures are addressed first in the SBC’s Baptist Faith & Message statement of faith; if God’s Word is flawed, all preaching is worthless. When God’s preachers realize they are His mouthpiece to clearly articulate the message to God’s people, the pulpits of our land will take on a new complexion. It is not about a preacher, it is not about a building — it is about what God wants His People to hear

and how they should respond.

The final category to note is the preacher’s preparation. Is the preacher a topical speaker or is he an exegetical speaker? Preachers need to take note of God’s message to Isaiah as he speaks to the people of the Northern Kingdom in Canaan as recorded in Isaiah 55.8-11. In brief, God honors only His Word and not a preachers eloquent words. Think of this, to allow God to say what He wants to say is simply the reading of the Word. In most sermons, there is very little of the reading of the Word. It is mainly a preachers commentary on a passage with stories and viewpoints. Years ago, an old professor suggested to his class, “let the text speak for itself, you might want to define what a word means in order to clarify what the Holy Spirit had in mind as He directed the biblical writer to record His Word.” Sound advice, indeed!

Maybe this Covid-19 pandemic will restore local congregations in refocusing life, whether gathered or scattered, on the preeminence of God alone. Something to consider while you are sheltered in place.



May

Please pray for our pastors and their wives on these special occasions.

**Birthdays**

**May 21**—Jeremiah Kinney  
(Remedy City)

**May 21**—Teresa Wilkerson  
(FBC Eaton)

**Wedding Anniversaries**

None

**Pastor-Church Anniversaries**

None

**Upcoming Events  
In May**

All events are dependent upon current quarantine orders.

**May 2**—10:00 a.m., ECBA Leadership Meeting at Redeemer Baptist Church , 3230 Lindberg Road, Anderson IN 46012

**Every Thursday**—9:00 a.m. Pastors Zoom Meeting

**May 14**—ECBA Semi-Annual Meeting @ Integris Community Church , 365 W State Street, Albany IN 47320 **Pitch-in Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

SBC Emphasis for May

**May 3** —Senior Adult Sunday

**May 7**—National Day of Prayer

**May 10-19**—Christian Home Week

## ECBA Profit and Loss Statement for March 2020

### Income

<b>4000 · Church Receipts</b>	
4060 · New Day	500.00
4120 · Halteman - Muncie	0.00
4140 · Kingston - Anderson	0.00
4160 · North Delaware - Muncie	193.26
4170 · Old Town Hill - Muncie	2,650.00
4180 · Redeemer - Anderson	0.00
4190 · First - Montpelier	90.00
4210 · Faith Christian Fellowship	260.00
4230 · Integris	84.83
4240 · Remedy City	43.41
<b>4250 · Muncie Chinese Christian Fellow</b>	<u>193.68</u>
<b>Total 4000 · Church Receipts</b>	<u>4,015.18</u>
<b>6999 · Misc Income</b>	<u>69,292.55</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>73,307.73</u>

### Expense

<b>7000 · Administrative Ministry</b>	
7010 · Other Expense	167.68
7021 · Insurance	600.75
7090 · Payroll	729.99
<b>Total 7000 · Administrative Ministry</b>	<u>1,498.42</u>
<b>7995 · Unbudgeted Spending</b>	<u>8,238.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>9,736.42</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>63,571.31</b></u>

## ECBA Balance Report March 2020

	<u>Mar 20</u>	<u>Feb 20</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
<b>1000 · ONB</b>			
1010 · General Budget	35,264.24	41,215.48	-5,951.24
1011 · Discretionary Admin Team	7,493.99	7,493.99	0.00
1015 · BCM Rent Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00
1016 · BCM Capital Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
1025 · Mission Building Capital Fund	6,132.19	5,902.19	230.00
1035 · Church P&H Fund	6,297.89	6,297.89	0.00
1040 · OMC	1,307.84	1,307.84	0.00
1051 · ECBA Endowment	0.00	0.00	0.00
1055 · Funds Temporarily Restricted	71,892.33	2,599.78	69,292.55
<b>1000 · ONB - Other</b>	<u>-900.99</u>	<u>-900.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total 1000 · ONB</b>	<u>127,487.49</u>	<u>63,916.18</u>	<u>63,571.31</u>
<b>1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation</b>			
1110 · ECBA Endowment	10,827.32	10,827.32	0.00
1111 · Church P&H ROI	1,179.71	1,179.71	0.00
1120 · Church P&H Fund	19,223.09	19,223.09	0.00
1125 · BCMH Temp Restricted	<u>149,357.73</u>	<u>149,357.73</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total 1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation</b>	<u>180,587.85</u>	<u>180,587.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>308,075.34</b></u>	<u><b>244,504.03</b></u>	<u><b>63,571.31</b></u>

(Continued from page 1)



Pastor Chris Hubler preaches at their Easter Drive-in service.

to contact others, checking on their welfare, during this time.

Albany's Integris Community Church has stretched their technology skills by prerecording services and editing



Overcoming the challenges of offering collection

them to include slides of scripture, etc. They make it available at 10:20 a.m. on Sundays realizing that 10:30 a.m. is

the optimal live time for most churches, which can cause problems in video quality. Pastor Greg Haisley also said that their Bible Study group has been meeting via Zoom on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

New Day Baptist Church in Alexandria moved their Facebook service to 9:00 a.m. to avoid the heavy video traffic at 10:30 a.m. according to Senior Pastor, Chris Hubler. Pastor Dale Trego, at their Muncie location, follows at 10:00 a.m. with his message. Redeemer Baptist in Anderson recorded their Easter service for Facebook. This was the first time they had ever done this.

This situation has certainly stretched our churches to figure out how to be the church during this quarantined time. There are challenges and opportunities yet to be faced. Pastor Bruce Reynolds summed it up well, "I'm not sure what church is going to look like after all of this is over but I'm glad Jesus is still on the throne."

**EAST CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

c/o Pat Storm

8900 W County Road 950 N

Middletown IN 47356

Phone: 765-623-3940

Email: [ecba@theecba.org](mailto:ecba@theecba.org)

[www.theecba.org](http://www.theecba.org)

Follow us



**Hope to see you there!**

**Quarterly ECBA Associational Meeting**

**Thursday, May 14, 2020**

*(Dependent upon current quarantine orders)*

**Pitch-in (Country-cooking theme) - 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting - 7:00 p.m.**

**Integris Community Church**

**356 W State Street**

**Albany IN 47320**