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From Pastor Jim's Desk

April 2020

Dear Freedom House Friends,

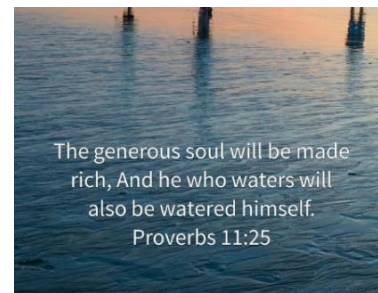
What a difference a month makes.... Wow! I earnestly pray that your faith, trust and hope are anchored in the Lord. His Word is packed full of His promises. Psalm 91 is a wonderful place to find solace and peace. In the early '70s I used a great bomb shelter built out of feathers, today the same shelter still works just fine (Ps. 91:4). We here at FHM are praying for you friends and partners daily as the majority of you are finding yourself staying home, possibly with no work or you may be significantly strained, weighted down by business decisions. Do know that He has not brought you, nor I, this far to leave us stranded. The Lord has us in the palm of His hand and under His wings. He knows the end from the beginning. We pray that He will be your gracious source in all things and the one to whom you turn when it seems overwhelming. He will see us through! One thing is certain, with so much of the distracting stuff seemingly all shut down, **He** has our full focus. Use this time to draw closer than ever before and let His Word feed your soul. Scripture declares **"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."** Isaiah 26:3



We have a unique challenge here as there are 14 students and staff on campus. Rather than sending everyone away and closing our doors for this group-living, discipleship and recovery setting, we determined to approach this with a "Shelter in Place" approach. No volunteers coming in and no passes nor family visits as this season unfolds. The brothers do get additional phone time with family and we are practicing social distancing at chapel times and for meals, etc. The gates out front are shut and the only trips out are by staff to do the necessary purchasing of food, medications, etc. Of course all of our outside work projects are on hold and/or suspended until the future allows. So, all in all, there is a very minimal amount of exposure. Thus after the first two weeks, all those on campus are healthy and the "closed campus" practice continues to keep them safe. We have been pleasantly surprised a few times to have friends provide a restaurant take-out dinner delivered here to the gate for the entire team and we have been blessed by that. We are deeply grateful for the prayers and continued faithful efforts to support this work in monthly giving. May He be honored through all of our combined faithfulness. I am certain that there are those who see and feel this economic challenge testing their hearts and are unable to give charitably at this time. We certainly understand. As well, there are those

who are determined to see His hand meet their needs as they remain consistent in support even when it seems sacrificial. Some have actually given above their regular monthly support to help make up any difference! We are humbled and grateful to the Lord for such acts of faith. May the Lord be quick to bless and honor both gift and giver with His favor and mercy. **The generous soul will be made rich and he who waters will also be watered himself.** Proverbs 11:25

Daily chapel services and our Sunday morning services are uplifting, as the Word continues to challenge and strengthen us all. We just completed a verse by verse study of Daniel, which was really an inspiration with the prophetic insights of His Story (History). In addition, we also finished Randy Alcorn's great book entitled "Heaven" so as you can see... it may seem a bit bleak in the midst of a Worldwide Pandemic, but here on campus there are huge,



i have too many flaws to be perfect. But i have too many blessings to be ungrateful.

heaping servings of spiritual nutrition in abundance. Glory to God! Perhaps as you face some of the hurdles ahead, you or a close loved one may be struggling with this virus or the unknown path in your future. Would you like someone to share in prayer with you? Please know that you can call our office and someone will be available to agree with you in prayer. (503) 347-9966

In closing, please stay safe and keep your family close. Do not let fears override your faith and trust that He is ever faithful that promised. As you "Shelter in Place", choose to camp on those many promises. Yes, Easter is going to be a bit different this year, but it will never lose its power, reminding us all of an empty grave and a resurrected Lord and



Savior. "He is Risen" and you are loved!

We will all get through this! Hallelujah!

Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim Cottrell
Exec Director

You Can Make a Difference!

Here are a few ways you can consider helping Freedom House:

- ❖ Choose Freedom House as your charity of choice for the Fred Meyers rewards program.
- ❖ Choose Freedom House as your charity of choice on AmazonSmile at Smile.Amazon.com.
- ❖ Employee Matching Gift and/or United Way campaign.
- ❖ Contribute towards the 2020 FH Project Fund.

Through the help of the caring Christian community, FHM has endeavored to never turn anyone away for lack of funds.

Helping those who desire freedom from addictions and life-controlling problems.

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