

Daily View

"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today'" Hebrews 3:13

August 17, 2020



Our temporary meeting place right next to our "perfectly good building," as one member said. [Photo by Steve Dickey]

Our First Tent Meeting

Tent "revivals" were popular in the 40s and 50s, especially in the southern states. There were a few in California and I attended one when I was very young. What I remember most was that the tent was erected on dirt, but they threw sawdust on the ground. It reminded me of a tent at a county fair. It also seemed like everything was louder and more frenetic.

Yesterday, we met in three quiet services, from 8 AM to 10:30 AM, under a huge tent (it looks smaller in the photo, but it's 40x40). This is a first for the church and so we had some kinks to work out, but we feel it went well. We had good attendance, especially when combined with our livestream audience.

It's been hot here, but we were able to get the three services in before it got to 100 degrees. There was little breeze and even some rain for a minute or two. I preached on Nehemiah 8, "all the people gathered as one man" (v. 1) and tried to emphasize the importance of God's people assembling together, regardless of the circumstances. The tent allows us to meet while still obeying I Peter 2:13, "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution..."

Some churches have decided to defy the governor's orders. We've considered it, but weighed that decision

against I Peter 2 and Romans 13 and decided against it, at least at this time. Changes could be coming though. A judge in LA County ruled in favor of a church and against the county's restriction on indoors worship and even against the 25% capacity rule. For now, the church that filed the lawsuit is allowed to meet indoors at full capacity on condition that they wear masks and physically distance. The full hearing on that lawsuit will be held on September 4th. We're watching that one closely, of course.

Meanwhile, we'll meet in our "tabernacle," praising God and enjoying at least a third of each other at each service. Feel free to join us. It will be a good experience for all of us, especially our kids (we have no sawdust).

Meanwhile, Psalm 100 seems fitting...

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

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