

# MESSENGER



## GOD'S PROVISION FOR TRIALS

by Eugene Norris

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)*

**W**e should seek God during times of trials and troubles. When the Coronavirus Pandemic's effects confined our people to stay at home on March 15, 2020, God was already supplying our church with a way to glorify the King of Kings with worship and praise. Love for God, Church, and One Another should be the motivating factor that drives each of us to remain faithful to the one who never leaves nor forsakes us. It is by God's grace and provision that He blesses during such times. Like Moses and the Red Sea Crossing, God opens a pathway to the future for His children and He has provided for Range Hills Baptist Church.

**Faithfulness and love for Jesus is key to God's provision.** When trials come to us, God is present, God loves us, and God enables and provides blessings for us. As in the Book of Hebrews, God uses faithful people in leading His Church. I rejoice in the work of seeking God through our Health and Strengthening Team. We could use others in our team to find ways to be over comers and encouragers for our church. With God's help, not only will Range Hills Survive, but it will thrive during tough times. God uses trials to build-up His people for greater things. We are in this world for the Glory of Jesus Christ and praise God for the riches He provides us during

times of testing. Remember Job's troubles and how God provided for Him. Remember Paul who said, **"I faint not"** meaning "I never lose heart." God wants us to be strong in heart and resolve to glorify Jesus in His Church. A loving Jesus people. Like Peter said in *1 Peter 1:7*, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

**Right focus—putting His Kingdom first, and right living—His righteousness our goal, results in God's "adding all these things" and God's "supplying all your needs."**

Living for and loving God and seeking to glorify His Son Jesus Christ exhibit God's working in and through His people to bear witness to His glory in our sinful world. We all need to walk closer to our Lord Jesus Christ, pray to Him more, seek His will and purpose for you and your family, and study and obey His word. America needs a turning from wickedness, a healing of the soul, and a God's blessing in our land. *"If my people,*

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**But my God shall supply  
all your need according  
to his riches in glory by  
Christ Jesus.**

**Philippians 4:19**

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*which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

# UPDATED

## OUR CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

According to current local regulations, the **Church Health Team** of Range Hills Baptist Church has made the following guidances for our church services at Range Hills Baptist Church. *Please note that we are reliant on every member of our church to help ensure that these policies are kept.* Adhering to these policies helps us create a safe environment for all of our members.

### Details are as follows:

- Sunday School starts at 9:30 am. Children and youth will meet in the back fellowship hall and adult Sunday School classes will be split between the middle fellowship hall and the Sanctuary. This will help ensure that we have adequate space for distancing and that we can clean each area easily after the meeting time.
- Sunday Morning Worship service will start at 10:45 am and the doors will open at 10:15 am. Members are asked to use the front foyer entrance.
- **Per local ordinance, masks are required at all services.**
- We will continue to stream our Sunday morning services on Zoom. So, if you would like to join us that way you are welcome too.
- We will make sure that we are sanitizing all surfaces that are touched by members. To aid in this effort, hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews.
- Offerings will be collected in a box in the foyer. Members will also be encouraged to give online at [rangehills.org](http://rangehills.org)

- To help members keep a good spacing in the Sanctuary, family units will be encouraged to sit apart from other family units and pews have been marked off so that members do not sit directly in front of or behind each other.
- At this time, we will continue Sunday Evening services, Wednesday evening services, nursery, children's church, choir, and van ministries at a later date when we can make sure that we can actively clean these areas. If you would like to help and lead in this cleaning effort please see a member of the Church Health Committee.



Join us on Zoom:

**Sunday Morning Service**  
**Sunday Morning @ 10:45am**

**Wednesday Night Service**  
**Wednesday Nights @ 7pm**

**Thursday Children's Service**  
**Thursday Nights @ 7pm**

**Sunday Children's Awanas**  
**Sunday Evenings @ 5pm**

**Meeting ID: 909-123-7086**

**If you need assistance with  
logging on, please let us know!**







## Incrediworld Vacation Bible School

Ziplock bags, pre-packaged crafts, and special deliveries are things that I never thought would be part of Vacation Bible School, but this year proved that thought incorrect. This year because of the COVID situation, we held VBS online and in the kid's homes. Each kid was delivered a packet of materials they would need to complete VBS each week. Yes, I said week! To help our families, we took each day of VBS and passed out the materials to be used over a week for five weeks. You might then ask, "But Allen, how did the kids know what to do with the material?" And I will tell you that God has blessed our church with amazing teachers and volunteers for our VBS. They took a huge leap this year and made instructional videos for Bible truths, opening assembly, music, Memory Verse games, snack, and crafts. Kids could watch the videos and then follow along with the supplies. We wrapped up each week with a closing assembly Zoom meeting. I am happy to say that this year we were able to deliver 36 packets to children each week. I am blessed to say that our blessings came in different forms this year. Normally, we see the kids come to church and learn at church. This year, we were able to take the Bible conversations into the home. Students and their families had conversations about Genesis, God's design, Forgiveness, and of course DINOSAURS! This was the hidden blessing of VBS this year that we could move past individual students and bring families closer to God with our VBS this year.

Thank you for all your prayer requests and I cannot wait to see how God uses Range Hill's VBS next year, in whatever scenario we are in.

Your VBS Director,  
Allen Moody

## The Power of Prayer

Prayer is one of the leading pastimes in self-reflection and gratitude, especially if one wishes to grow spiritually. Praying, specifically, provides such benefits as not coming to understand oneself, but promotes virtuous ideals and personal character growth



### Top Ten Reasons to Pray:

**Better Sense of Self** – Praying brings you closer to yourself as well as the higher power you pray to. A study conducted by Columbia University shows that prayer reduces ego and promotes humility. This makes one more concerned for a greater good rather than just themselves, improving selflessness.

**Good for your heart** – Prayer helps regulate your heartbeat, making it stronger and less stressed. Though it is a mental and spiritual activity, prayer has been known to speed up the recovery of the heart following heart attacks and cardiac surgery.

**Increase lifespan** – By minimizing all the life-threatening effects of stress and environmental factors, praying helps your body heal more efficiently and age more smoothly. All this put together helps the body heal faster and live longer.

**Improves attitude** – Prayer helps you be humbled. Through prayer we come to realize how large the world is and how minor our problems are compared to it. When praying for other people we tend to sympathize to others' problems rather than be selfish. When praying positively, we tend to see a change in our overall attitude making us feel happy both mentally and socially.

**Gain forgiveness** – Prayer helps us to open ourselves to forgiveness. It is important that we understand we are all humans who make mistakes and that praying helps us forgive ourselves for those past mistakes made so that we can move on. Also, during prayer you may be able to gain some insight and sense of direction.

**Gives us hope** – When going through a very emotional phase, prayer helps us believe that there is hope in getting through situations. Praying helps us believe that there is a higher being that we can help us shoulder our burdens. Although having hope may not mean that things will turn out the way we want it to, trusting someone with our problems helps get a burden off of our shoulder.

**Relieves stress** – We live in a pressure-filled world where we are constantly being rushed to take on responsibilities, succeed and be at the top of everything. Reflecting on our problems through prayer helps relieve the initial stress of the situation. Leaving our problems up to a higher being.

**Stronger mindset** – While prayer also promotes hope in the future, faith is also what keeps a religious person centered and strong. Through their belief they have the strength to overcome both trivial and major worries.

**Recovery** – After a situation leaves you emotionally or physically distraught recovery is a timely process. Prayer serves as a way to deal with the aftermath and keep one's faith. Your mind and body are focused solely on healing while prayer keeps you centered and hopeful.

**Maintain a positive outlook on life** – Day-to-day issues affect our stress levels and mood. Daily prayer keeps religious people looking forward to a better tomorrow. By being thankful for every day and every day to come praying changes one's outlook on life as a whole.

This article was borrowed from:  
<https://www.healthfitnessrevolution.com/top-10-health-benefits-praying/>



## Church Health Committee Update

From its inception, the mission of the Church Health Committee (CHC) has been to help Range Hills Baptist Church identify things that our church does well and find ways and opportunities for our church to grow and strengthen. We were able to help plan social gatherings for church members, provide open spaces for the church to provide ideas and insight into church life, and help establish meaningful prayer conversations through prayer partners and our church prayer board. Since the Coronavirus pandemic, our focus has needed to shift. Since March, the CHC shifted its focus from ways to help strengthen our church to keeping us together. Our meetings have been focused on things like digital church services, evaluating church procedures to make sure that we are keeping our church family as safe as we can during the time of COVID-19, and making sure that we are attempting to reach as many members as possible. As we continue forward through a pandemic, we are continuing to trust in God's provision and promise found in *Jeremiah 29:11* "For I know the plans I have for you - this is the Lord's declaration - plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (HCSB)

The members of our committee are aware of many of the hardships, griefs, and losses that have afflicted our church over the past months. They have been days like we could not have imagined in January when we said we were going to put our prayer goggles on in 2020. But, as we are adapting and finding ways to meet in-person and virtually, we need to make sure that we are holding true to pushing forward and strengthening our church. We need to reach out to our prayer partners again, we need to fellowship (enjoying the company of other Christians) again, and we need to make sure that every member of our church is moving forward with us again in a way that is safe for them, but as a dedicated member of Range Hills Baptist Church.

First, on a personal note, I know that I have not been as faithful to reaching out to my prayer partner as I could have been over the past months. I will strive to improve upon that and I hope you will join me. Do you not have a prayer partner? I'm sure we could connect you with someone or maybe you just want to reach out and encourage others through acts of prayer. Second, we are going to reinvest in fellowshiping together. Physical gatherings are currently precarious things, but we are blessed to have our Zoom meetings. We hope that you will join us August 2 at 5 pm with your dinner and your presence. We will enjoy a time of fun and fellowship. While we can't share food, we can share what we are eating, share in laughter and encouragement with fellow Christians, and maybe you and/or your family will be willing to share a talent or knickknack with our church family. And lastly, but importantly, we need you to evaluate your function in the body of Christ. As we move through perplexing times for which no one seems to have a map or how-to document, we need your assistance. We need the church of Range Hills to step-up and

help us. We need you to help us make sure that our church is disinfected after each service, that your Sunday School space is disinfected, that you are following all of the social distancing ordinances and guidelines, that you are helping pick-up and clean occasionally around the church, and that you are joining us for our services in-person or online through Zoom. (If you need Zoom information, please reach out. I would love to help you get started on Zoom, if that is where you feel most comfortable joining us currently.) We need your leadership, too. We have all been given gifts and I pray earnestly that our church body as a whole is praying to find the way they can use all of their gifts. I believe whole-heartedly that God has plans to "give [Range Hills Baptist Church] a future and a hope." I've attended this church for 34 years now and I can honestly say that God hasn't forsaken us yet, and I have no reason to believe that He will start now. Please join myself and the Church Health Committee as we pray for God's provision, future, and hope for Range Hills Baptist Church.

In Christ,  
Allen Moody  
Church Health Committee

### Greetings & Salutations,



The youth have been heavily embracing online learning for God in this pandemic. We have continued to have their Sunday School classes and Sunday Night and Mid-Week classes.

We haven't given them a break and they have been working really hard studying God's Word and growing. Sunday Mornings have been filled with learning about King David all the way to Elisha. We got to see God drop the Mic on the people of Israel in Elijah's challenge to prophets of Baal. God made His presence known before His people and called for repentance. The youth more recently studied about Elisha taking over the mantle from Elijah and continuing to the work of God in a mighty way. His faith is an inspiration to us to trust in God. Reading about an heavenly army protecting you in the face of your enemies is just plain awesome. Sunday Nights and Weds. Nights have been packed with Bible Bee classes. The youth have been working hard memorizing Bible verses and why they are important to a journey through Genesis about Joseph's life. It has been an adventure of hardship to betrayal to providence. They have seen God work in all of it and also contrasting Joseph's life to the life of Jesus. Fun fact they were both 30 years old when they started their ministries to the people. Be on look out for the youth to share verses and their growth in God's Word.

Til next time,  
SWAT Team.