

Letter from Pastor Gary - May 1, 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

"On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city." (Acts 8:1-8)

The lesson comes true again and again: God uses the set-backs and suffering of his people to spread the truth of Christ and to bless the world! The encouragement we find in Acts 8 is that God rules over the sufferings of the church and causes them to spread the joy of faith in a lost world. It's not his only way. But it does seem to be a frequent way. God opens doors and spurs the church into missionary service by the suffering she endures.

So while it is frustrating to be the church scattered, we must not see this as a setback or defeat of our mission. Our God is the Master strategist! What you see in this and every setback is the positioning for a greater advance of the gospel and a greater display of his wisdom and power and love. Spiritual renewal and spiritual awakening and new ministry partnerships are blossoming all over the world, even in our little corner of it. Praise God!

We have some wonderful services planned for Sunday, May 3 (have juice and bread ready as we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper in each of our services):

Spanish Service (9:00 AM): "Rising Above Discouragement" Acts 18:1-17 Pastor Gary Domiano; Watch Live at www.facebook.com/Primera-Iglesia-Bautista-de-Flushing-NYC-Ministerio-Hispano-103654884345775/

Chinese Service (11:00 AM): "The Lesson of Submission" Romans 13:1-14 Pastor Shih Wei Chiang; Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushingchinese/

English Service (11:00 AM): "The Touch of Jesus" Mark 5:21-43 Pastor Aaron Chan; Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushing/

News of the Church Alive:

(1) Mother's Day is May 10! Make a quick video of how much you (and/or your children) appreciate Mom.

15 words or less. Upload your video by Wednesday, May 6, 12 p.m. to:

<https://bit.ly/FBCMOTHERSDAY2020>

(2) If you are aware of any in the FBCF community that are in need of groceries and unable to get them, our Ministry of Mercy (M.O.M.) is here to help. Just contact our Minister of Congregational Life, Maria Cheung, at maria@fbcflushing.org; 646-915-6075. Let MOM get the groceries for you!

(3) In addition to our regular offering, we will also receive a benevolence offering (deacons' offering) this Sunday so that we can continue to assist our brothers and sisters experiencing extraordinary need.

Remember, church is not something you go to, it's a family you belong to.

Choosing Faith Over Fear,

Pastor Gary Domiano

Mark 4:40