

# HEART OF THE CANYONS



HOTC family,

Without question, this has been the most interesting couple of weeks I have ever experienced in ministry. Our culture is in high level protection mode and everyone is scrambling to survive. I returned from Texas (where I celebrated mom's 90th birthday) and knew we had some interesting decisions to make regarding our church's response to the COVID-19 virus. Decisions made yesterday by the city of Los Angeles and Hart School District ultimately made those decisions for us. As of Thursday afternoon, the city of Los Angeles requested that there be no gathering of over 50 people in LA County, and then last night I got a phone call from the principal of La Mesa informing me that the district is suspending all outside groups from using their facilities until further notice.

As a result the only campus that will be meeting at their regular site this weekend is the Newhall Campus, and they will meet at their regular 9 AM time. However, they are asking everyone to show great wisdom in their attendance. If you or your children are sick, please stay home. Elderly who may have any vulnerabilities need to exercise wisdom. When you attend please be friendly but greet one another with a smile and wave, not a handshake or hug. Doors will be left open so handles will not have to be touched. All children's areas and rest rooms will be thoroughly cleaned, and hospitality will only serve coffee, no refreshments.

Here's the good news: every campus will be webcasting their services online! Newhall will webcast as usual at 9:00 am, HOTC Canyon Country will be online at 10 am, and Tim will webcast from Sunland at 10:30 am. You can still give your tithes and offerings online, by mail (24771 Valley Street, 91321), or you can call your church office and make arrangements to drop it off.

We are living in crazy times but we serve an amazing God. I never cease to be amazed at the ability of our Lord to turn adversity into blessing. Remember Romans 8:28 as you walk through this time: "*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*" We will trust Him in the days ahead and see how He uses this inconvenience for His glory.

Lastly, we need to pray! I've seen a lot of reaction to this crazy situation, but little admonition to pray. 2 Chronicles 7: 13-15 says, "*When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.*"

I challenge you to pray and seek God's face. We are the church - reflect Jesus as you live and move and have your being in these days.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Ryan'.

Pastor Jim Ryan