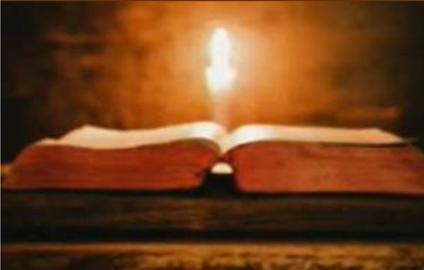


# Vistoso Community Church Update: May 15, 2020



## IN YOUR LIGHT, WE SEE LIGHT

Psalm 36:9

### Livestream Schedule

**Sunday:** Livestream Worship service at 10:00 am followed by 10 minutes of music, then Pastor Kevin will have 15 minutes of Q&A with e-mail questions: [pastorkr@icloud.com](mailto:pastorkr@icloud.com)

**Monday-Friday:** Livestream Bible Study, 10:00 am. The broadcast begins with music at 9:50 am.

### Office Hours

The Church is open during normal office hours:

Tuesday-Thursday from 10 am-2 pm.

Friday from 10 am-12 noon.

### Weekly Publications

Prayer list—Thursday  
Update newsletter—Friday

For those with an e-mail address in the Church directory, these publications will be e-mailed to you. For those without e-mail, the publications will be available at the Church.

### Also Available

Audio discs are available at the church for each of the Bible Studies and the Sunday service for those who do not have computers.

**Address:** 1200 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd., Oro Valley, 85755

**WEB:** [Vistoso.org](http://Vistoso.org)

**Phone:** 520 825-0652



## From the Pastor's Desk

### VCC SETS THE RE-OPEN DATE FOR JUNE 7

In reality, the latest news pales in contrast to the Good News of the so-great salvation that is available through faith in Jesus Christ! Nonetheless, I am blessed to be able to share with you that church leadership has decided we will target Sunday, June 7 as the date for opening the doors of the church and regathering for a time of corporate worship. For those who don't feel quite ready to return, of course we will continue to livestream all of our services as well. No doubt a number of questions come to mind.

### Could we meet before then?

We could. As part of his plan to re-open the state, the Governor has provided suggested guidelines for places of worship, and we already have plans in place to exceed those guidelines.

### Then why wait so long?

That is a good question—with a simple, but somewhat grim answer. In re-opening, our State government is conducting an experiment. I personally am glad they are doing so; but nonetheless, it is an experiment with less than certain results. At the same time, it is also true that 80% of the people in Arizona who have died of Covid-19 have been in the 65+ age bracket. It is certainly possible that in re-opening society there may be new hot-spots of infection. So, one way to phrase our dilemma is this: In terms of the experiment currently underway to re-open the State, should we be the proverbial "canary in the coal mine" given the vulnerable nature of our congregation to Covid-19 infections? It would seem clear that the answer to that is no. We have waited patiently thus far and we have been blessed of the Lord for our patience, and I think it wise to see how this unfolds before putting those who choose to gather at greater risk. As your pastor, I most definitely feel protective of those who make up the Body of Christ waiting to gather at Vistoso Community Church.



### What are we going to do in the meantime?

We are planning to gather three weeks from this Sunday. We will certainly use the time between now and then to make sure that we have a safe environment, and one conducive to worship, for those who choose to join us when the doors open. Furthermore, we will continue to livestream every day of the week and on Sunday. Hang in there with us as we spend time in the Word of God nearly every

Continued on the next page.



## THE PRISON MINISTRY CONTINUES

Three years ago, in the Spring of 2017, God gave the Missions Committee at VCC the opportunity to assist Steve, an inmate at North Central Correctional Complex in Marion, OH, to start a Bible study in his dorm. The study focused on knowing God and doing His will and VCC provided workbooks to get the study started.

Eventually the popular Bible study was moved to the Chapel allowing residents from all ten dorms to take the class. Twice more VCC provided additional workbooks as the class size grew. God also worked through inmates who had taken the class to start other Bible studies in the chapel and dorms.

### COVID-19 Begins

This Spring, Covid-19 has put the prison on lockdown. No visitors are permitted. The dorms are isolated from one another, even going to meals at different times in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. Each inmate must wear a mask whenever he is not on his bunk. The inter-faith dorm has had several cases, so they are further isolated. Meals are delivered directly to the dorm. Every time a new case is detected, their quarantine period of 14 days restarts.

### The Effect on the Studies

So, what has happened to the Bible studies? Initially only the



inmate-led studies were allowed to continue, since no outside ministry leaders were admitted into the prison. Then the studies taking place in the chapel were discontinued as the men were restricted to their dorms.

One might assume, with all these restrictions, that all studies would have been suspended, but Jeremy, one of the study leaders, says that he is meeting with another man to study the Bible and that at least two other inmates are holding small studies in the dayroom of the inter-faith dorm. God was not surprised by the coronavirus and He continues to work!



day. Continue in those *disciplines* of the Christian Life—make use of the weekly Prayer List, keep up with your daily devotions. If you don't have a regular Bible reading plan, stop by the church and pick up the daily devotional that we publish every month. And, of course, always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within by sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

### Is waiting a lack of faith?

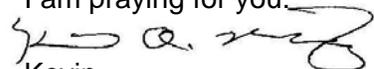
Fair question! In return I would ask, what portion of the above displays any doubt? The leadership of the church has sought the Lord on this, trusting that **"He will direct our paths"** (Proverbs 3:4-5), and we believe He has done so.

Perhaps you are thinking, "Doesn't it show we are afraid, or even disobedient, by not gathering for worship?" First, we are still gathering, just not in the way to which we are accustomed and prefer. I would certainly not tell that soldier on deployment who finds the time to stay current with his or her home church via the web that he or she is disobedient for failing to physically gather with the congregation. We too have been overtaken by circumstances outside of our control.

As for being afraid, if we are thinking that we have to do everything we can to hunker down and hold onto this life or it might somehow get away from us, then we are not walking by

faith. We ***number our days aright*** when we freely confess that our days on this earth are in the Lord's keeping. On the other hand, in Leviticus Chapter 13, we see an example of how God prescribed isolation as the treatment for certain kinds of disease. One could ask, if they were God's chosen people, why didn't they just trust God to heal and protect? Why did they have to obey the Mosaic Law and isolate themselves? Apparently, God expected His people to adhere to good medical practice as prescribed by Him! Thus, as a matter of faith, we are trusting that we are leading our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ with our eyes fixed upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

I am praying for you.

  
Kevin