

Hey Revision,

We are living through interesting times that are crazier than any of us could have possibly imagined a year ago. And now, after all the challenges we've faced over the last eight months, more challenges seem to lie ahead. COVID cases are rising rapidly, hospitals are experiencing staffing challenges and increasingly full ICUs, schools are shifting to online-only models, our nation continues to be divided on so many issues, and so many of us are feeling weary and beaten down.

I want you all to know, first and foremost, that I pray for you constantly. I love all of you guys, and I am praying for you as you walk through the daily drama that surrounds us right now. And I am here, along with the rest of our staff, to listen, talk, pray, care and more. Please know; you are not alone! You don't have to deal with 2020 on your own. That's what the church is for, and I consider it one of the great privileges of my life that God has called me into a role where I get the chance to walk alongside people in hard times.

That said, as most of you know by now, the method of doing church at Revision is shifting for the remainder of 2020. Our mission – to help people meet Jesus and follow him fully – remains the exact same. But, for a number of reasons, the way we're going to chase that mission will be different over the next six weeks than it would be in "normal" times. We have to constantly evaluate and re-evaluate the question: how can we carry out the mission God has given us to the best of our ability? That drives absolutely every decision we make at Revision. And the process of regular re-evaluation means always being open to making changes.

For the rest of 2020, Revision will meet online only. We are doing this because: 1. At least for now, we cannot rent the Clive building on Sunday mornings, and we seriously doubt that it will reopen for rental purposes before the end of the year, 2. We have taken our responsibility to care for the health of the people of Revision very seriously since March, and the best evidence we have right now suggests that this responsibility requires making this shift now – especially as our church family is increasingly hit by COVID and our volunteers are affected personally or by having exposed and sick family members, 3. We are here to reach unchurched and dechurched people for Jesus, and we take very seriously the perception those around us have of Revision as a church that cares deeply for our community. And we're aware that, fair or not, based on evidence or not, many people in our world right now who desperately need Jesus feel like churches that continue to gather don't care deeply about the safety of those around them. If we err in any direction, we want to err in the direction that feels like the love of Jesus to the people around us who don't know him.

I realize that even though we have prayed fervently, thought deeply, and struggled emotionally with every single decision that has been made, and even though we have tried to do the best we can to be true to the mission and vision of Revision Church, some of you will be frustrated with this choice to shift to online-only through the remainder of 2020. Some will disagree with both the choice and the reasoning. Some will argue that we're being overly cautious, and some will argue that we haven't been cautious enough. I want you to know: I understand. I honor and respect your right to feel the way you do, and to think I'm wrong. I absolutely don't expect that everyone will always think I'm right. That would be ridiculous because I am often wrong. I'm wrong about all kinds of things. And I do my best to publicly confess it when I am. So, it's ok to disagree. My only request is that you afford our staff the

*grace to trust our hearts and our purpose in all of this. Please trust we have done the best we could over the last eight months to honor the mission God gave us, even if you think we've made a methodological misstep or two or ten along the way. As followers of Jesus, we are called to live as citizens of a Kingdom that looks radically different than the world around us. It's a Kingdom built on the love and unity that comes from a shared understanding of our identity in Jesus. So, let's do our best to disagree without being dismissive and without quitting on one another. Let's choose not to take short snippets of the Bible out of context and use them to shame those with whom we disagree. Let's remember that our enemy divides, but our God always unites! Let's not abandon each other or abandon community in these difficult days, but instead choose to lean in and love hard.*

*Thank you all for your willingness to roll with the changes in this season. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your support. Thank you for the ways you have served and sacrificed. Thank you for loving the people around you. Thank you for being amazing! I love you guys. "See" you Sunday at 10am on YouTube or Facebook!*

*- Mike*