

May 17, 2021

Dear Church Family,

It has been a while I have written a note to all of you. It is long overdue. It was my intention that I send out a note once or twice a month to stay connected with the church family as much as possible. Things have gotten in the way; but I am back to at least sending you a monthly note.

First, I ask that you keep Joy John and Gretchen Galinato and their families in prayer, as they are mourning a loss in their families. As the church family, it is important that we empathize with our fellow members who are hurting. Your prayers are important and needed.

As for me and my family, we are doing great and I give God the credit. The girls are becoming more and more involved through music and student leadership at their school and adapting to life in San Antonio gets sweeter as the days go by. God is so good!

This last Sabbath, you may have noticed that we had an interpreter, using American Sign Language for our deaf participants. I thank my wife, Lavenda for arranging that to happen, as it is a need. Our church should be accessible to all who desire to know Christ, even if its just for one person. If anyone would like to financially contribute to this ministry, please speak to me or to the church treasurer.

Today, I had two awesome meetings: one on zoom with my volunteer secretary, Sharla Taylor. The second one was an in-person meeting with our head elder, Allan King. I appreciate these wonderful individuals! You might have received weekly updates and announcements through email and text. That is part of Sharla's doing. In addition to that, she will begin sharing monthly reports, directly related to church board/business decisions that are important for awareness. If you know of anyone that would like to receive weekly announcements and the monthly church/board report, please have them send an email request to communications@filamsda.org. Allan King has been working hard to fulfill his role as the head elder, along with filling in with areas that lack volunteers. He is doing a lot for our church and I appreciate his commitment.

Through prayer, God is leading me to preach a series on *Family Life*, beginning May 29th through the month of June. God has something for every family member in this series. I encourage you all to not miss one sermon, if possible. Speaking this sabbath will be Elder Allan King as my family and I are taking a few days' vacation from Friday to Sunday of this week to attend a family graduation and baptism. We will miss worshipping with our church family this Sabbath, and you will be in my thoughts and prayers.

As I end, I would like to leave you with these words, *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."* (Philippians 2:3-4). It is my prayer that we deny ourselves, truly love each other, and to lift Jesus Christ, always.

Your servant,

Pastor Michael Tuionetoa