

# THE EMBERS

Thoughts from the Revival Trail



PULPITAFLEAME  
MINISTRIES

Puplit Aflame Ministries

June 2020



Doug & Rhonda Brandenburg

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## Prayer Requests

- Full Schedule of Meetings  
*Many open dates for 2020*
- Monthly Support
- Special event support for 2021  
Missions Trip to PNG (\$,8000)
- Rhonda's improving health
- Blessings on the meetings
- Tabletop perfect binder
- 19" professional paper cutter
- Pro level video camera  
(CanonXA50 UHD 45k30)
- Tripod (Manfrotto 504HD & Carbon  
Fiber Twin Leg Kit)
- Sling Studio setup (\$2000)
- Diesel pusher motorhome with  
slideouts

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## Lock Down - LiveStream - Local Church - Let Down - Loved Ones

As I was preparing this ministry update, those were the words that come to my mind. I was in an unusual mood to alliterate the newsletter and that is what came of the effort! I will break down our report into those areas.

### Lock Down

The year 2020 started out with many exciting meetings planned, missions trip scheduled and great expectation. After a good start at the beginning everything came to a screeching halt with the arrival of the coronavirus (COVID-19) For many weeks we, like everyone else, were told to "Stay Home, Stay Safe." Our society quickly became something that I could not recognize. Factories were shuttered, stores were closed, and churches were told they could not meet together. For an evangelist, no church gatherings mean no revival meetings, no Setting Sail Conferences, no Big Days, and no special meetings. All of our meetings were cancelled. I have never seen anything like this!

While on the "lockdown" I was able to work an several publishing projects, spend time with our family, and spent a tremendous amount of time advising and counselling pastors on how to minister to their people on Social Media and Livestream. With no meetings there were no opportunities to speak in churches, nor to receive love offerings. We do have limited monthly support, but even some of our supporters had to suspend their support because they also were not working. When it seemed as though it would be impossible to survive financially, God was faithful! The Lord provided in so many amazing ways. Late one evening I had a text from a Christian friend who asked if I was home. When I replied that I was, they asked if they could come over. I said that they could, and they brought by several bags of groceries and a tremendous love offering check. On another day an envelope came in the mail from a church where I have not preached in a year that contained the largest love offering that we have ever received. God is AMAZING and so are His people.

### Livestream

Because of the prohibitions on public gatherings many churches turned to Livestreaming their services. The church where we are members has been doing Livestream for about a year and a half. At the beginning of the "lockdown" our pastor, Tim Berlin, at Faith Baptist Church in Warren, asked if I would teach the Adult Sunday School on the church's Livestream. For eight weeks I taught on the subject of "Bible Study for Life." This was a very practical series of lessons on how to develop a habit of consistently studying the Bible. God really blessed the lessons and many people were helped. The videos are available at <https://www.pulpitaflame.com/bible-study-for-life> . We are working on a new book based upon those lessons. We hope to have it available soon.

At the end of March, I received a phone call from Pastor Jim Green of Parker Memorial Baptist Church in Lansing, Michigan. It was at the very beginning of people not leaving their houses. Churches were not conducting public services. He asked if I would be willing to preach an "Online Revival Meeting." I agreed and from March 29 to April 1 we held the meeting. It was the most unusual meeting in forty-five years of preaching. With only me, Pastor

(Livestream - Continued on Page 2)



COVID-19  
CORONAVIRUS  
COMPLICATIONS



Groceries Given!



Bible Study  
for Life

It's not how to get the most  
from your personal Bible study.

by Dr. Doug Brandenburg



Green's wife, daughters, son-in-law, the PA operator and man for security in the room, we "had church." We had congregational preaching, special singing, and preaching. It is very strange to preach hard, challenging Believers, and then give an invitation for people to come to the altar with no one else in the building! (I waited for Pastor Green's son-in-law, Paul Snyder, to get right with God, but, alas, he is a hard case and would not walk the aisle! – He is the assistant pastor!)



During this time we were able to assist several other Churches in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina get started doing Livestream services. Some of those purchased cameras, computers and connection devices, others used a cellphone, but all were able



Dr. Brandenburg with Pastor Jim Green and Dr. Don Green

to provide some type of Bible teaching and preaching for their people. I am thankful that we are able to use technology to spread the gospel and to preach the Word of God to more people than ever before. Livestream does not replace the local church, but it does extend our influence! Think of it! The media ministry workers in our churches, who usually go unnoticed, suddenly became some of the most important members of our team. Truly, God can and will use every talent and ability we have, if it is yielded to Him!

## Local Church

I am a "local church evangelist." That means that our work is to assist pastors and their local churches in the work of the ministry.

Everything that we do is geared toward the ministries of the local church. As with most evangelists our main way to assist churches is through the public preaching of the Word of God. Preaching is paramount! But that is not the only way we help churches.

I was raised in the ministry with my dad. Rhonda and I have been in the ministry together since 1980. We have done just about everything it is possible to do in the ministry! We have started churches, been an assistant pastor, senior pastor, bus ministry director, Bible institute and college teacher (hesitate to use the title, "professor"), Bible Institute president, Bible college vice president, printing ministry director, editor, press operator, typesetter, graphic designer, summer and winter camp worker and director, and many more that I cannot even recall at this time. We have experienced days of great blessing and growth in ministry. We have seen God orchestrate events and circumstances that defy understanding. We have also experienced dark days of disappointment, discouragement, and what appeared to be unsurmountable odds. We have led ministries through trenduous trials. Through all of those ministry experiences we have found our God to be faithful! We have learned how to trust God when it did not make sense to trust Him. He has always been all we need and more!

What all that means is that we have a lifetime of experience to share. I spend many hours each week on the phone with pastors and ministry workers giving counsel, advice, and sometimes just being a listener. I often pray with these dear men of God about their ministry and their burdens. We count it a joy to pass on to others the things we have learned so that they can be all that God desires them to be. My ministry life verse is 2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

It is very obvious from the Scriptures that we are stewards of what has been taught to us. Much of what happens to us is not FOR us. It is simply the Lord providing a conduit to send help to others.

As we have endeavored to fully utilize all that God has given to us we strive to provide many services to pastors and their local church with tools to accomplish their ministry.



One of the things that we love to do is to assist pastors in the planning and implementing of special projects or events in their churches. One such event was assisting Pastor Eric Tharp in planning their "I Love My Church" campaign. This involved a stewardship program and banquet. We created and provided the graphics for the entire campaign. This included designing and having printed several banners for the church property and the banquet. We also designed and printed the banquet program, commitment cards, offering envelopes, campaign buttons, graphics for the engraved awards and certificates. I was also able to preach for that weekend, both at the banquet and at church on Sunday.



Graphic design elements for the banquet

Please contact us if we can be a help with the planning of your special events, programs and Big Days. We are available not only to preach, but to be involved with brainstorming with you and your staff and planning of the event. We can help you develop a detailed plan that will insure that every detail is planned and cared for. We will help with the logistics of the planning and completing the event. Our normal practice is to create a complete manual of operations for the event that will assist you in planning such programs in the future.



Our ministry, *Pulpit Aflame Publications*, is a publication ministry that can assist you

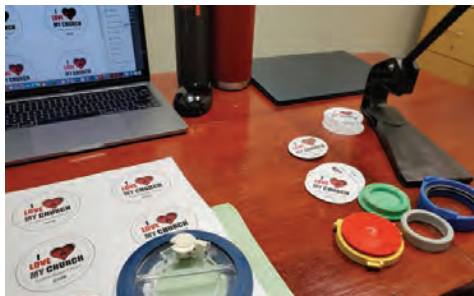


in all of your printing and graphics needs. In addition to producing materials that we have written, we can also design and print a variety of projects for your ministry including tracts, letterheads, envelopes, signs, banners, buttons, promotional items,



*Our salvation booklets and children's tracts on the cutter at Parker Memorial Printing Ministries*

books, booklets, book cover design, and anything else you can dream up! We have the capacity to print many things in-house. For larger projects we have connections with printing ministries to complete the work following our design process.



*Button Making Equipment*

## Church Worker Conferences

Now that our country is opening back up and most churches are beginning to return to a more normal schedule, NOW IS THE TIME to retool and refresh your ministry. It is the perfect time to organize, plan and train your people to do more for God.

It is time to fill our Sunday school classes, follow-up on converts, and get the buses running again! We help local churches with the training of their people "for the work of the ministry" with detailed programs to equip your people in the overall work of Sunday School, children's church, and bus ministry. These are called "Setting Sail for Church Growth Conferences." We have a 100+ page manual that each participant in



the conference will receive. It includes the notes for the instruction that we will give and the originals for many useful ministry forms. At the end of this meeting your workers will have a new focus, tools, and passion for the work of the ministry.

We are currently working on a much more detailed "Sunday School Organization" conference. This meeting will help churches utilize more of their people in the work of the Sunday school. We will be providing instruction and tools that will help you take your Sunday school to another level. We are available to conduct soulwinning training workshops and are available to train your church staff. Please contact us to schedule a conference soon.

## Pulpit Supply & Preaching

In recent days we have had the opportunity to preach in churches while the pastor was out of town. We are honored that pastors trust us to help their people in the pastor's absence. It is our goal to encourage the church as well as provide relief to pastors.

We have also been able to help several churches that are currently without a pastor. We have helped with "pulpit supply," meaning preaching for their public services while they are looking for



a pastor. For several weeks I have been helping Bethany Bible Baptist Church in Durand, MI. We began preaching there in February and in March, before the COVID-19 pandemic. We were not able to be there during the many weeks of the quarantine, but returned to the pulpit on May 17. They have asked me to serve as the Interim Pastor. That means I am committed to preaching and directing the services and ministries as they search

for a pastor. Please pray for us as we seek to help them. Also pray for this church as they seek to go forward for God. Contact me if you know of a preacher who is looking to pastor a church. It is a small church in a small community, but has a good facility. There is tremendous potential there.

Would you also consider supporting us financially on a monthly basis? When helping these smaller churches they are not able to provide the finances needed to take care of our responsibilities. It is only because of the support from other churches that we are able to commit the time and resources necessary to help them and still take care of our responsibilities.

## Let Down

One of our great passions is to expand our ministry to the foreign field. I have had the privilege to make two trips to Papua New Guinea and one to Australia. Our ministry in Papua New Guinea and Western Australia was especially blessed of God and has yielded lasting fruit. It was our plan to travel once again this summer to Port Moresby and Daru in Papua New Guinea and to Perth and Kalgoorlie in



Western Australia to preach in two youth camps, teach an intense Bible Institute course, and mentor native pastors. COVID-19 caused massive disruption in America, Papua New Guinea, and Australia. The public reactions to the virus caused disruption of schedules for school and vacation (holiday) and resulted in major travel restrictions. The churches we had planned to work with are not able to host these meetings. While our hearts are grieved that we are not able to travel this year we accept that as the plan of God. We are planning to go in 2021. Please pray as we plan and prepare for next year. We also are looking for additional opportunities to conduct revivals, camps, and to teach in Bible Institutes and to train and mentor native pastors in other countries as well. Would you pray and ask the Lord what he will allow you to do to help us make these trips possible?

## Loved Ones

The first half of 2020 has been very eventful for our family. Rhonda is continuing her recovery. While the recovery is not going as quickly as we would like it to go, she IS improving. Rhonda went into the hospital in September and did not get back home until mid-December. After she arrived at home from the hospital and rehab she was only able to leave the house to go to the doctor or physical therapy. She was making great progress. The physical therapy for her lymphedema and the wraps for her legs have made a difference. By the beginning of March she was just beginning to be able to leave the house and go to the store and even to attend church services. Things seemed to be getting back to normal...and then COVID-19 hit! Because of her weakened condition she was at very high risk should she contract COVID-19 and was again not able to go leave the house, nor were we able to have people over. Due to the quarantine restrictions, Rhonda's physical therapy for her lymphedema. She has also has been



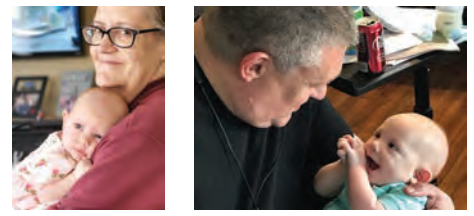
*Headed to church together!*

experiencing severe back pain for several weeks. The doctors are treating her for this and it is improving slowly. Please pray for her continued recovery.

On June 10 Rhonda was able to go with me when I preached at Bethany Bible Baptist Church in Durand! That was the first time since September 2019 that she was able to accompany me! Please continue to pray for her to regain her strength and mobility. She would like to begin travelling with me on longer trips.

### New Addition to the Family

On March 2 our daughter, Becky, gave birth to their third child and our eleventh grandchild! Baby Amelia Ruth Bladorn was born at 10:25 am. She weighed 8 lbs, 1 oz, 20.5 in long. We congratulate Allan and Rebecca Bladorn on this bundle of joy!



*As you can see, Amelia loves her Nana & Papa!*

### 40 Years and Counting!

On June 14 we celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary. Words cannot express how much Rhonda means to me! I am so blessed and thankful to have her with me in the journey of life. She has joyfully served at my side in every place and ministry where the Lord has lead us. God has been good!



*As you can see, we haven't changed a bit!*

June 2020 Ministry Report

Doug & Rhonda Brandenburg

**PRAYER LETTER FOR**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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**PULPITAFIAME**  
MINISTRIES

