



Dear Louisiana Leader,
Greetings from Alexandria!

Several years ago, I set out on pursuing a crazy dream. I had wanted to run a marathon and with the right encouragement from some friends, I launched into training. I will never forget the emotional experience (and the physical pain) of crossing the finishing line. On mile 5, I wasn't thinking about the finish, I was thinking about mile 6. But when I passed 25, I could feel the finish line was in reach. That was 12 years ago, and I can still tell you lessons I learned on that first running journey:

- You don't train to alleviate pain; you train to endure it.
- There never is a 'finish', because there is always a 'next'.
- Either my mind controls my muscles, or my muscles control my mind.
- A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul.
- Rhythm and pace are more important than speed.

Those lessons transcend running and actually reach into every area of life. As we get close to the finish line in this current phase of our Corona-race, we need to take a moment and meditate on what we are learning:

- Technology (Well Done) is necessary moving forward-regardless of church size.
- Technology (Done Well) will expand our ministry influence.
- Small Group Ministry is not optional, shifting from teaching to equipping.
- Greater creativity in caring for our church and community
- Reprioritizing, identifying things we thought vital that are actually optional.
- Health issues are now decision factors in ministry, along with spiritual and safety concerns.
- The Church is resilient and most productive in times of crisis.

Thursday, April 22, is our next All-State Zoom. We will continue this topic move into discussing questions we need to be Asking and Answering as we get closer to Reopening our Churches. We have scheduled two meetings to accommodate time schedules, 10:00 am and 6:30pm.

I am so excited about our Lead Conference: *Online Edition* this coming Monday, April 27th. Information and ministry times were included in the special LC packet you received. Schedules and access information to all meetings will be posted on our Facebook Group/Page to make sure you're able to join every event. I believe this will be an amazing day of unique and anointed ministry! It all starts at 9am with our prayer meeting, streaming on our Facebook Page.

Talking with a pastor today, he communicated how he is leading his staff to never say, "Going back to what we had." I love his forward thinking. May all of us use this current moment to move us forward into new ministry realities.

Blessings,
Scott