



Building Relationships with Christ, One Another, and the World

Volume 61

March 29, 2020

Number 13

SECRET CHURCH

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020

Secret Church began at The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama, based on time Dr. David Platt spent with brothers and sisters in underground Asian house churches. In those contexts, they gather together at the risk of their lives for 8-12 hours at a time simply to pray, worship, and study the Word. It's simple, raw, dangerous, and satisfying ... all at the same time.

The leaders at Brook Hills began asking if they could do the same thing and decided to try it. They set up a Friday evening where people could gather from 6pm until midnight for two main purposes: to worship through intensive study of the Word, and to identify with our persecuted brothers and sisters by praying intentionally for them. Simply six hours of straight teaching and prayer.

At the first gathering there were about 1,000 people, and after that it began to grow. Secret Church now takes place with thousands of believers joining together in homes, church buildings, and other locations all around the world. One of Dr. Platt's favorite sights is to look out across a room packed with people at midnight with their Bibles open just soaking in the Word of God.

The objective of Secret Church is not just to come and learn for one night but to take what we've learned and pass it along to others. We also want to recognize the great need to pray and come alongside our brothers and sisters who live in places around the world where there is little to no gospel witness or where the gospel is met with resistance. We want to use what we've learned during this gathering to make disciples of Christ—both locally and globally.

Visit SecretChurch.org

**CONTACT CLINT JACKSON FOR MORE DETAILS.
(CJACKSON@HIGHLANDBAPTIST.NET)**



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DAILY BIBLE READING

March 29	Ezra 8:15-36
March 30	Nehemiah 9:1-25
March 31	Nehemiah 9:26-38
April 1	Isaiah 40:1-31
April 2	Isaiah 51:1-23
April 3	Isaiah 52:1-12
April 4	Isaiah 12:1-3-53:12

**GIVEN TO DATE:
\$6,050.38**

**ANNIE ARMS-STRONG
EASTER OFFERING**

**THERE ARE NO ACTIVITIES
SCHEDULED AT HBC FOR THE
WEEK OF MARCH 29-APRIL 4.**



FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR...

This past Sunday was a first for many Christians around the world. For the first time in history, most churches did not gather physically with one another, but rather gathered to worship from house to house connected via the internet. Part of me has to wonder that if God in his infinite wisdom, gave the idea of the internet to those pioneering scientists, engineers, and programmers for such a time as this.

Although we were out of our comfort zone and not able to be together physically, let me share with you a WIN from Sunday. Not only were we able to keep the live stream up the whole time (although I know that some lost signal for a brief moment or two), but we had more people in worship together than Highland has ever had in its history. On Sunday, we had approximately 200 unique views (144 peak on Facebook Live and 52 peak on YouTube Live). A unique view is one computer or device that is logged onto our internet stream. If each computer, device, or tv had at least 2 people watching that's 400 people worshipping together. But, more likely than not, most streams consisted of 3-4 people per device watching. That would mean that we had anywhere from 600-800 and possibly more people all worshipping together on Sunday morning. If they all showed up in our building, we would've had to turn people away. God blew me away with what He accomplished on Sunday!

So, where do we go from here? First, we will continue to host an online worship service for the foreseeable future. It's not optimal, but I believe God can and will continue to use it for His glory and for our good. Second, **invite, invite, invite** others to join us online this week. This week's topic is marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33). In a culture where marriage is seen as merely an option to try for a while, it's no wonder so many marriages are struggling and many end in divorce. What does God have to say about marriage? What is the purpose of marriage? And, how can we partner with God to build a healthy and happy marriage? Lastly, continue to pray for us as leaders to have wisdom and discernment to make the right decisions, in the right way, and at the right time. We're all in this together. God's plan for His church hasn't changed. We will display his glory and work for the good of others no matter what. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, Bro. David

Building a Godly Marriage
Ephesians 5:22-33

ONLINE GIVING

If you own an Android phone, download the app by clicking this underlined link: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ministrybrands.ministryone&hl=en_US

If you have an iPhone, download the app by clicking the underlined link below: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/church-by-ministryone/id1400938486>
Open the app and select Highland Baptist Church.

If you have the Shelby Membership App, you may provide your cell number and enter a code provided by the app to obtain your giving data. If you already have an online giving account, you may sign-in and give online. If you do not have an online giving account, the app provides the option to create one.

TEXT GIVING. The number for text giving is 601-340-9409. Type HBC in the message.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY ARE EXTENDED TO:

...the family of Joe Johnson.

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF JOE JOHNSON BY:

Highland Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony McDaniel

IN MEMORY OF MRS. JEAN GRIFFIS BY:

Mr. and Mrs. William D. McKellar

Mr. and Mrs. Tony McDaniel

Designated to the Youth Ministry by:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Starnes

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

John Maxey, Associational Missions Strategist for Lauderdale County, is seeking volunteers from LBA churches to work outside the walls of the church to bring support and help to the vulnerable senior and immunocompromised populations of Lauderdale County. Volunteers should be outside the CDC limitations. If you are willing to serve please contact the LBA office at 601-483-1419 or jmaxey_lba@outlook.com.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT MARCH 22, 2020

Budget	5,680.24	CDC Req. to date	279,099.24
Child Development Center	.00	(12@23,258.27)	
Designated	856.00	CDC Receipts to date	212,396.00
Total	6,536.24		
Budget Req. to date (12@22,740.93)	272,891.16		
Budget Rec. to date	294,394.40		