

## CAST OUR BURDEN UPON THE LORD

Psalm 55:22

*“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee:  
he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”*

We still have a reason to celebrate because God blessed us to live and enter into a New Year that was not promised or guaranteed. As in 2020 and 2021, we enter 2022 still amid a pandemic which is burdensome for many. Being believers, **we have the privilege to take our burden to the Lord**. When we correctly do this, God promises to sustain us and to make us unmovable. In summation, I encourage each of us to cast upon the Lord anything that is a burden to us, for this is necessary in order to have a happy and prosperous New Year.

## SHELTERING IN PLACE

The virus known as Covid-19 is rapidly spreading and very infectious. Although many are in disbelief, I know personally that this is true because I tested positive with Covid. I am doing so much better, but I am still not 100%. Some people who are infected have mild symptoms, but this has not been my experience. I experienced moments when my symptoms were quite severe, but **because of God's grace, I am still alive and recovering.**

As a congregation, we should shelter in place and avoid public gatherings at least for the next two weeks because this virus has spiked terribly in certain places like the Bay Area. **To keep us safe, we will not assemble in person for at least the next two Sundays;** however, we will continue to worship, congregate, and study virtually and online. For example, I encourage everyone to view our worship via YouTube especially until we reopen for in-person worship. As in the past, we should be able to view each service on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter.

## THANK GOD FOR THE RAIN

Before the season began for rain, I asked each of us to pray to God for much rain. Well, God has answered our prayers because we have been blessed with a lot of rain; therefore, **let us thank God for the rain and entreat God for more rain.** Remember, saying “thank you” opens the door for some more of what we thank God for.

## OUR DAILY BREAD

Thursday, January 6, 2022: Genesis 15-17; Matthew 5:27-48  
Friday, January 7, 2022: Genesis 18-19; Matthew 6  
Saturday, January 8, 2022: Genesis 20-22; Matthew 7  
Sunday, January 9, 2022: Genesis 23-24; Matthew 8  
Monday, January 10, 2022: Genesis 25-26; Matthew 9:1-17  
Tuesday, January 11, 2022: Genesis 27-28; Matthew 9:18-38  
Wednesday, January 12, 2022: Genesis 29-30; Matthew 10:1-23  
Thursday, January 13, 2022: Genesis 31-32; Matthew 10:24-42  
Friday, January 14, 2022: Genesis 33-35; Matthew 11  
Saturday, January 15, 2022: Genesis 36-37; Matthew 12:1-21

## BIBLICAL GIVING

Proverbs 3:9-10

*“Honour the LORD with thy substance,  
and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:  
So shall thy barns be filled with plenty,  
and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”*

The writer of Proverbs commands us to honor (glorify) God with what God has blessed us with. “Firstfruits” means the first or beginning, and it implies tithing from the gross (not the net) of our increase. “Increase” means our total income or gain. **When we glorify God by tithing (10%) the firstfruits (gross) of our increase, we will experience an overflow of God’s blessings.** Our barns shall be filled with plenty and our presses shall burst out with new wine (blessings). If we want to experience God’s favor, our giving must be according to His word, so I encourage each of us to begin 2022 giving as we are taught in Proverbs 3:9-10. **We currently give in person during Sunday Morning Worship Celebrations, by mailing or dropping off our Tithes and Offerings at our Administration Building or South Campus, or by giving online through our website ([sjmbc.org](http://sjmbc.org)).**

## BUILDING FUND PLEDGES

We still desire to construct a multimillion-dollar **Family Life Center**, adjacent to our current sanctuary at the North Campus, which will consist of a gymnasium, game room (for the youth), and weight room. Many of us made a pledge that we fulfilled, but some have not. I personally thank those of us who have already fulfilled our pledge and others who have made “Building Fund” contributions. I

encourage everyone (if you have not already done so) to participate financially as soon as possible in this building project by choosing one of the following tiers:

- 1) \$10,000.00 or more
- 2) \$5,000.00 to \$9,999.00
- 3) \$1,000.00 to \$4,999.00
- 4) \$500.00 to \$999.00
- 5) Below \$500.00

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### Sundays:

- Virtual Worship Celebration at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter
- Online Church School at 2:00 p.m.
- Online J.A.M. (Children Fellowships) 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
- Online Lord's Supper 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays at 7:00 p.m. To participate, each believer will need bread or a cracker and grape juice (or something similar).

### Mondays:

- Preparation For Grocery Giveaway at 10:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- Online Women Missionary Ministry (General Mission) 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

### Tuesdays:

- Grocery Giveaway (North Campus and South Campus) at 12:00 p.m.
- Online Church Leadership Council Tuesdays before 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesdays:

- Online Prayer at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Online Church School at 7:00 p.m.

## BIBLICAL RECAPITULATION

We can have a happy and prosperous New Year if we cast our burden upon the Lord, for He will sustain us and make us unmovable.

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor