



## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 // SEPTEMBER 2020

*God is God!*

Often times, it is difficult to understand what God is doing when we encounter difficult circumstances in our life. Many of us have had our lives completely disrupted with the affects of COVID-19. Our family was impacted in several ways, some positive and some difficult. But God was moving in a specific way that we could not understand at first. With schools in our county navigating online instruction and children safety, I have been given an opportunity to teach online for this upcoming semester. This opportunity will allow me to teach, expand our ministry, and complete my seminary degree this year. We are praying that God will use this opportunity to provide future employment for virtual education in order to provide for our family while Rivers Edge Church is maturing. We are so thankful that we serve a God who not only hears our prayers, but whose wisdom surpasses our limited perspective!

*We didn't choose this time, God did. We didn't choose this place, God did.  
We don't call people to gather as a church, God will.*

### PLANTING DURING A PANDEMIC

I have been asked several times, "How are you going to plant a church during a pandemic?". To be honest, I don't know how to respond to this question. Personally, I would have chosen a different time to plant a church. With the difficulty of meeting in person, our communities struggling financially, and churches all around us struggling to draw their regular attendees, it is understandable that some would question our motives, strategy, or sanity! Yet, I have always strived to be direct and honest with those who desire to know about Rivers Edge. We didn't choose this time, God did. We didn't choose this place, God did. We

don't call people to gather as a church, God will. What we are called to is faithfulness and obedience. We are not sitting back and waiting for God to manifest His church, but we are walking faithfully where He has directed us. We have prayerfully begun planning bible studies, with the desire to have two bible study groups established by the end of September. I have requested and received preaching opportunities in order to sharpen my exegetical skills. We have reached out to churches in our community in order to build relationships with them. As our family prepares for what lies ahead, we can be confident that God will provide what is needed.

## CONTACT

[www.theriversedge.church](http://www.theriversedge.church)

ph: 828.406.0712 // [ross@theriversedge.church](mailto:ross@theriversedge.church)

[f](#) [@](#) [@riversedge.church](#)

## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

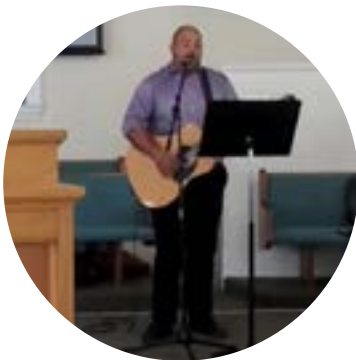
A special thank you to Loris 1st Baptist and their pastoral staff, Louis Venable and Hunter Johnson. It was a pleasure and an honor to preach to their congregation this past August and we are praying that God will continue to guide and bless their church!

We want to give a special thanks to Jones St. Baptist Church for extending the offer to preach at their church. They have just recently begun to convene again, in their parking lot. We want to pray for the health of their congregation and for God to provide them wisdom and discernment while they are searching for a future pastor.

We also want to thank Living Water Baptist for the opportunity to preach this past Wednesday, September 9th. We are so fortunate to have the support of our church in this church planting process. We covet your prayers, that you would pray for continued guidance and discernment as we navigate this season of uncertainty together.

## WHAT'S NEXT

This month will be a busy time for us, as it is for many parents. Between school starting, new job expectations, and various sports schedules, we also have an exciting month of ministry ahead. We plan on starting an online marriage bible study this month. We will also be starting a neighborhood Bible fellowship group on the 18th of September. We plan on meeting at our home for the first meeting. I have received several more opportunities to preach and lead worship recently. Most recently, I was given the opportunity to lead worship at Lakeside Baptist Church, followed by the honor of preaching for the opening of our return to Wednesday evening services at Living Water Baptist. I will be preaching at Jones St. Baptist in Tabor City, NC on the 20th. We also will be involved in the Church Planting Cohorts meetings early this month. We are especially excited about our first interest meeting at Living Water, currently being scheduled for the 30th of September! Please continue praying over our family as we manage schedules, work, and ministry this month.



### NEEDS:

- Financial provisions
- MacBook Pro (\$2500)
- Projector and screen (\$1000)
- Business cards (\$200)
- Website fees (\$300)
- A space to meet as a gathered people
- Land for future church site

### PRAYER FOCUS

Our monthly needs will vary, so we hope that each month you will take time to pray for these specific circumstances

- Our community as we begin to prayerfully reach out about a Bible Study.
- Our local churches, that we would be able to connect with them and begin a meaningful relationship.
- Our family as we begin to navigate a busy schedule.
- Future Partners, that God would reveal to us those whom He desires to partner with us

## CONTACT

[www.theriversedge.church](http://www.theriversedge.church)

ph: 828.406.0712 // [ross@theriversedge.church](mailto:ross@theriversedge.church)

[f](#) [@](#) [@riversedge.church](#)