

Dear Church,

As our thoughts and prayers are with Kelly and the Ryan's, you may find that the Lord is doing a work in you and your family. Our children are hearing our conversations, prayers and fears. As a family, this impacts us all. You may feel the desire or need to shield your child(ren) from this as much as possible, depending on their age and personality, but remember also that "this present darkness" has no power "in the light!" During this time Kate and I are fielding questions, discussing "faith" issues and praying with our children, just as I know some of you are experiencing now or will be experiencing over the coming weeks. These are the teachable moments of life where you get to make real "faith impressions!"

As your children hear things and have questions, encourage them to talk about their feelings and ask their questions. This is where you get to share your faith and testimony, and they really want to hear because they are asking for it. Kelly's situation, because they know and love him, brings this "home" to them. "If Kelly could get this sick," they are asking, "might this happen to me." Their hearts will be soft, pliable and possibly open to the "grace of the Lord" for the very first time. Try to end these moments by pointing them to God - the One with all the answers, faith and power.

We have teachers and leaders who will be readying themselves to minister to the children when we meet here at the church, but we also want you to know that we are available to you! As you minister to your children please do not hesitate to call upon us as resources or for encouragement. Thank you for praying and reaching out to "comfort the afflicted." You are showing yourselves as "true friends" like Barnabas!

In His Peace,

Paul de Gastyne

Good Shepherd Baptist Church

Interim Family Pastor

Ps 72:3-4 Let the mountains bring peace to the people, And the hills, in righteousness. May he vindicate the afflicted of the people, Save the children of the needy And crush the oppressor.