



## March 2021

In last month's Jeremiah Journal, I said that it not possible to predict with any confidence where we'd be 90 days into the future. This month I'm revising that 90 days down to 30. That's because of the change we've had to make to our Leadership Institute on Wednesday, June 23.

Our original plan was for Wednesday to focus on evangelism. Professor John Lennox would present "Apologetics and Evangelism" via video from England, where he lives. John's friend Richard Borgonon, co-author of *The Word One to One*—an excellent evangelism equipping resource—would speak to us in person and take our questions.

On March 2, Richard informed us that because of continuing lockdown and quarantine requirements in the U.K., he can't come to Memphis to speak in June. He offered to make his presentation via video. However, that would have left us with an entire day of remote video presentations by Richard and John Lennox—not a good way to do Leadership Institute.

We now have a new schedule for that day.

In the morning, General Assembly host pastor George Robertson is going to address soul care for pastors. His remarks will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. Given the known destructive impact the COVID-19 shutdown has had pastors and church leaders, this is a timely and urgent topic.

In the afternoon, Rufus Smith, co-chair of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force, will report on learnings from that group in the past year. A panel discussion and Q&A will follow Rufus' remarks.

The schedule on Thursday afternoon has changed too.

If you do not serve on a standing committee that afternoon, there will be a presentation by the Giving Culture Study Committee in the Sanctuary. Committee member Scott McKee will present the committee's findings about how we fund the EPC budget and unpack the proposed change from Per Member Asking to percentage of budget. Time will be set aside for Q&A after Scott speaks.



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As we respond to these changes, we've concluded that now more than ever we need to stay flexible, even as the trend lines for this pandemic continue to improve.

For this reason, the final change I have for you this month is that online registration for General Assembly has been pushed back from April 1 to April 15. This is being done to give you additional time to decide whether you'll attend this year's GA in person or virtually.

As these changes continue and we adjust, I'm reminded of what is unchangeable, and that is our God. His perfection, holiness, grace, and love remain unchanged. He is not surprised by these changes at all. He's sovereign Lord—Lord of the universe, Lord of His church, and yes, Lord of our lives. He's working His plan and it will be accomplished!

Thank you, God bless you, and remember: He is risen!

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