



FROM: THE DESK OF JEFF ENGROFF
TO: The People of Zion
DATE: June 24, 2020

Summer greetings to the folks of ZELC!

I wanted to take a few moments to update you all on the CYFM happenings in the recent past and looking ahead to a post COVID-19 pandemic world.

As I write this article there are already a few of our high school and college grads embarking or getting ready to embark on their next chapter of higher learning. I am mindful that Evan Benedict left home for Colorado last week and is now known as Basic Cadet Evan Benedict. Speaking of graduates...Pastor Barb and I made our rounds to each graduate's house in late May. We arrived with balloons, a big Hershey bar, a graduation card and a devotional book. It was great to see their smiling faces!

Last month I was notified by our nonprofit group that they halted rebuilding houses until at least October or November. I know that the ZYM participants are so appreciative of the support and encouragement they received leading up to this point. Perhaps we can try again and open the trip up to anyone who might be interested. I've led several larger groups on mission trips to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast over the years and think it would be a lot of fun and a very meaningful experience.

Another challenge living through this pandemic is trying to stay connected to our church family. I have enjoyed creating Sunday school lessons for our Kids' Club Sunday school children each week and will continue to do so throughout the summer months. I am looking forward to Zooming with the younger children and their parents next week, just as I have done all spring with our ZYM youth. Living in the digital age is challenging but can be so rewarding! Finally, after months of quarantine, some of the ZYM students met me at Leisure Lanes for a rousing round of mini golf. Again, it was just so good to see one another after such a long hiatus. I've also enjoyed participating in our taped Sunday services with pastor. The volunteers we have at Zion are incredible! Singers, musicians, and videographers working together in perfect harmony. Truly the best of a not so good situation.

I am planning, and praying for our relaunching of worship and Christian education classes and other CYFM ministry events. I keep you all in my prayers and I my daily thoughts and look forward to seeing you all (in person) soon!