Welcome the interruption

Week Four

Intercession: meaning to "intervene on behalf of another", or more literally to "go between." It is the recognition of a gap—an unfilled need—and the call for someone to stand in that gap.

There's a sobering story in Ezekiel 22, where the Lord speaks to Ezekiel about sin among the people. Ezekiel 22:29-30 says, "the people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice. I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one".

Let that not be said of God's people today!

For the last week of "Welcome the Interruption", we humbly - yet boldly - call church leaders to call their congregation to "stand in the gap", using these three things:

- 1. **Pray**. As 1 Timothy 2:1 urges us to pray for all people—the needy, the sick, the essential workers, the vulnerable children, the stressed and anxious parents—pray that God protects and provides both supernaturally, and through his people for those who are vulnerable.
- 2. Partner. The Apostle Paul's deep love for the Philippian church was, in great part, due to their financial partnership to his ministry of the gospel (Philippians 1:3-5). Although your church and your congregational family may be financially struggling right now, we still trust God who has promised to provide every need! If you are able to make a donation, every dollar that is given to Safe Families will be matched through the generous support of the Stand Together Foundation up to \$1,000! With your partnership, it allows us to serve isolated parents with the support they need and keep their vulnerable children safe. You can give to your local Safe Families chapter at the link here: Donate
- 3. Serve. Volunteers are the heart and soul of Safe Families. It is our volunteers, organized in Circles of Support, that provide the love and care to families in crisis—who will stand in the gap for parents and children who are at risk. They are greatly needed. We ask that you consider becoming a Safe Families Church, and urge your members to become Safe Families Volunteers.

Even though we are unable to congregate as local churches during this pandemic, the Church remains strong and supernaturally empowered through the Holy Spirit to intercede in many ways! I pray for you and your church, that God would give you the vision to "welcome the interruption" that we are in the midst, and to intercede in ways that dynamically and eternally make a difference.