“**Not Forsaking the Assembling of Ourselves Together...”**

During COVID when we were all on “Lock-down”, I became very comfortable with my worship on the internet through Facebook contacts. I would be happy in my bed with coffee as I watched three programs each Sunday morning: Long Beach First at 9:00 am, Yorba Linda Faith Community at 10:am, and Anaheim First at 11:00 am. Because I didn't have any preparations to make for church, I had recorded “Hour of Power” on Saturday night and watched it Sunday at noon. **I felt I had more time of real worship and communion with Christ than I usually had when I had attended church on Sunday mornings.**

So, when the time came that churches started “re-opening”, I had a long talk with the Lord, saying, “I really have a better Sunday morning worship time with things the way that they are, than if I go back to the church schedule I had been doing before: Sunday School at 9:30 am, Church worship at 10:45. I enjoyed the fellowship at church, but I had no real leadership role during that time. (Not including a 50-minute drive to church and then a 50-minute drive home after church.)

God reminded me of that verse in Hebrews10:23-25,*“Let’s hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”* He even reminded me that during my 50 years of ministry I had preached several times from these Scriptures!

The point is: I came to realize that while I might not need to go to church for my own spiritual growth, I needed to be there to encourage others and help them pursue with me our love to others and our good deeds in the name of Christ. In short, “We really do need each other!”