

The Church of God of Prophecy NC State Office PO Box 699 Jamestown, NC 27282

March 13, 2020

To: North Carolina Pastors and State Staff

From: Jeffery A. Davis, State Bishop North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy

Regarding: Coronavirus

I have been praying, watching and listening to see what the government officials have to say, and trying to see what other church leaders are doing to help their people through this difficult season.

In 2 Chronicles 20, when faced with insurmountable challenges Jehoshaphat stepped forward, set himself to seek the lord, and then lead Judah as they sought the Lord in prayer, fasting, and confessing, "Lord we know not what to do but our eyes are on you."

God's responded by sending a plan that revealed to Judah who God was, who they were to God, and what they needed to do to see the victory.

As Judah followed God's plan, God brought the victory, and Judah was blessed and their future secured and sustained.

As we prepare ourselves for the coming days and the effects of the Coronavirus, we know that this is a challenge beyond our ability to solve. We need the intervention, direction, wisdom, understanding and inspiration from Heaven's architect and healer, so that we can be agents of God's Kingdom "On Earth As It Is In Heaven."

## Here is our plan of action:

Hebrews 12:2 tell us, "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...." That's what we will do. Let us look unto Jesus!

Join me in seeking God for:

- 1. The church leadership, pastors and lay leaders to hear from God in this season. I encourage fasting and prayer so that we can hear God's perspective and clear direction.
- The Peace of God to overtake the members of our churches, congregations and our communities.
- 3. His will and plan for the government agencies. And God's direct influence in their decision-making processes and provision of resources.
- 4. The healing of those infected and affected by the virus.
- 5. The Salvation of mankind, the expansion of the kingdom of God in the earth.
- 6. The wisdom and God for the scientist and medical professionals.

God wants to take what the enemy meant for evil and turn it around to be something good for His people, and for all who would receive His love, compassion and ultimately for His Glory. 2 Chron 20.

- That said we are moving forward with our MINISTRY as schedule until further notice:
  - 1. All calendar events remain on the schedule and will be updated weekly, so please check the NCCOGOP website and Facebook page. I encourage the local churches to do the same, as the information is rapidly changing.
  - 2. However, we will adhere to the recommendations of the Governor and the medical professionals and experts. I recommend that the local churches do the same. The following are options to assist you: 1) If your church gathering is a hundred or more, you can split the services, or 2) initiate small groups or life groups to facilitate the services; the pastor can facetime or Skype in, and have interaction the congregation that way, or 3) consider providing Livestream for "Church at Home"
- NCCOGOP State Facilities; Office and Campgrounds:
  - 1. (Safety) We will increase cleaning and disinfecting all doorknobs and high-touch surfaces, during and in between events and services. I encourage the local churches to do the same. Have hand sanitizer available!
  - 2. (Safety) We will follow the advice of the medical experts and professionals, and I encourage everyone to do the same; this includes protocols for washing your hands frequently. It might be wise for your church leadership to decide on whether to refrain

- from shaking hands, etc. While we are not trying to incite panic, we do want to be mindful that many are uncomfortable with handshaking and hugging during this crisis.
- 3. (Safety) If anyone, adult or child, and or any other person in your household is experiencing symptoms of colds, flus or viruses, such as runny nose, coughing, sneezing or fever, please see a doctor right away, stay home and minimize physical contact with others until medically cleared. If not able to attend the church service, watch a livestream of a service. If livestreaming is not available at your local church, several of our COGOP churches have this service available, and we will provide a listing and post it on our website and Facebook page. Special consideration should be given to persons 60 years of age and above; this is the most vulnerable group.
- 4. (Ministry) Pastors, I encourage;1) preaching and teaching on what the Bible says about Jesus the healer, who we are as His people, and address the issues of sickness and viruses, and the end times, 2) Preach and teach on how we can effectively pray God's word against such illnesses, and 3) How God loves us, and equips us as believers to bring His power and love to others in times of crisis. On March 23rd, the Billy Graham Association will stream a training on Sharing Hope during Crisis. For more information visit <a href="https://billygraham.org/what-we-do/evangelism-outreach/rapid-response-team/training/">https://billygraham.org/what-we-do/evangelism-outreach/rapid-response-team/training/</a>.
- 5. Additionally, at the end of next week I will prepare and send out a "Scriptural Prayer Focus" that will address our pro-action and how to pray for ourselves and others in times like these. Pastor you can look for it on Constant Contact, with a modified version posted on our website and Facebook page. Pastors I encourage you to do the same. You can use the handout that I prepare or develop your own.
- Livestream Church at Home:
  - 1. Encourage those that gather at home not to just watch the Livestream ..., have church! Bring the ministry of the church into their homes. Gather as a family, sing the songs, clap theirs hands, pray the prayers, listen to and respond to the word, and allow God to minister.

Finally, I encourage your church staff to meet and discuss this directive and strategize for moving forward.

Because of how quickly this situation is developing, we encourage everyone to check our Facebook page periodically to receive information, updates and notices. Also check for calendar updates. Pastors should check their emails for our Constant Contact message regularly.

2 Chron 20 reminds us that the Lord is with us!

Ps 91 tells us that we are sheltered under his wing

Ps 23 tells us that the lord is our Shepherd and we do not have to fear

Ps 97:9-12, tells us God is in control

Dan 4:34-35 tells us the Lord dominion is everlasting

Heb 12:12 tells us to look unto Jesus, he is the author and finisher of our faith.

When life seems out of our control, be reminded that God is in complete control! The Lord reigns.

We will get through this together!

On Earth As It Is In Heaven,

Jeffery A. Davis North Carolina State Bishop

cc: Regional Bishop