



The Church of God of Prophecy
NC State Office
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March 26, 2020

To: North Carolina Pastors and State Staff
From: Jeffery A. Davis, State Bishop North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy
Subject: Coronavirus Update -Suspension of all Services and Group Gatherings for 15 days; and Pastoral Recommendations

2 Corinthians 4:8-10; says,

We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed. We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed in our body.

As I have been in communication with our leaders both in North Carolina and around the country, it has become clear to me that even in the midst of all the darkness, difficulty and despair, God is up to something great! While there is much to pray about e.g., the Church of God in Georgia where 2 have died, and 40 members of the congregation are infected with the COVID-19 virus, or the Pastor hospitalized in Vancouver, Canada and his wife who has now tested positive and the entire church exposed; or the pending one million dollar lawsuit in Oregon, where a 17 year old is infected and is fighting for her life, all of which we need to continue praying about; God is also giving us Treasures out of Darkness and there is much to celebrate.

Isaiah 45:2-3, says,

"I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars. "I will give you the treasures of darkness, And hidden wealth of secret places, So that you may know that it is I, The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.

While most of the news we hear is negative, the truth is, most of the people who are contracting the virus are recovering. Additionally, churches have an open door to minister to their community, politicians are repenting, churches are reaching 4 to 5 times the amount of people through streaming service on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights than they would have under normal conditions, and many people are coming to Christ. It's a NEW NORMAL, and God is in the center of it all! Yes, we are stretched, but we are not to the breaking point because God will not allow more on us than we can bare. God's Grace will help us to get through this season.

North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy Directives:

On March 18, 2020, I issued a directive that "all North Carolina Church of God of Prophecy local congregations suspend all corporate gatherings in accordance with the Local, State and National guidelines". Today on March 26, I reaffirm that directive; the suspension which began on March 18 is scheduled to end at midnight on April 3, 2020. However, depending on the Local, State and National guidelines and information from the North American Presbyters office, the decision to extend the suspension is pending. On April 1, I will issue an update directive to make the final determination.

Until further notice, please adhere to the following:

The NCCOGOP State Facilities, Office and Campground:

The NCCOGOP State Office will be open for business, however closed to the public. My staff are instructed not to receive any visitors, pastors, etc. We will adhere to all the recommendations of the Local, State and National Officials.

The NCCOGOP Campground is closed until further notice.

I (Bishop Jeffery A. Davis) am postponing all previously scheduled church visits until further notice.

Practice the Ministry of Presence:

While we are complying with the local state, and national authorities regarding the practice of social distancing, we are not practicing social isolation. To continue pastoring during this season, I recommend the following:

- Pastoral calls, texts, and check ins
- Assign leaders to call, text, and check on your seniors weekly; develop a schedule so that the leaders will know when to expect your call
- Have leaders or cell/ small group leaders make periodic calls to members of the congregation
- Operate phone trees and assign a person to be responsible from the group to report back to the pastor
- Pastors are encouraged to:
 - Use conference calling
 - Send out a regular email to the membership with updates and encouragement
 - Establish a Zoom Video Conference Account for the church
 - Facilitate the services; utilize Facetime or Skype
 - Livestream for "Church at Home"
 - Encourage those that gather at home not to just watch the Livestream ..., have church!
 - Preach and teach the gospel
 - Teach the Sunday School Lesson

If livestreaming is not available at your local church, check our website for a listing of other COGOP churches that provide this service.

Assistance and Resources:

Assign someone to contact the county to request a list of local Food Banks in your area

Special Notes:

So that members and congregants can continue to pay tithes and give offerings:

- Consider establishing online giving
- Make sure that your members have the P.O. Box address, if you don't have one, establish one

For a listing of postponed and rescheduled State Events, visit our website and Facebook page each Friday for updates.

Thank you for your partnership.

On Earth As It Is In Heaven,



Jeffery A. Davis
North Carolina State Bishop