



From the Office of the Bishop

As of Thursday March 19, 2020 Gov. Gavin Newsom on issued a stay-at-home order covering all of California. Under the order, people can still undertake essential activities, like shopping for groceries, and go for walks (provided they practice social distancing). Though this “stay-at-home” order carries with it a sense of urgency to all Californians to help slow down the spread of this Covid19 (Coronavirus) to those who are a high risk, (i.e.) Seniors citizens, those who have pre-existent health illness, and those who could potentially become carriers of this virus. We as a church body, have complied with the “social distance” guidelines, hand sanitizing, refraining from unnecessary hand shaking, hugging etc. We were under a social gathering guideline through our local government, that suggested no more than 250, 50, 25 and now no more than 10.

This new guideline of 10 or less has now impacted our ability to gather as a church body, and because of this we will now, temporarily suspend our church services as we are accustomed to meeting on Sunday’s and Wednesday evening until further notice, and come into compliance to our local and state government order.

However, this order, does not mean we will be, “CLOSING THE CHURCH, OR SHUTTING THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH”, this only means, that we will be, what I now refer to as, “**Doing church different**”.

We will now begin to utilize a creative ministry approach by way of implementing a social media platform (*Facebook, Instagram, twitter and Youtube*) that will allow us to continue to minister to our GCT members and social media congregation at-large.

This ministry approach is not new, we've always utilized social media to expand our ministry reach, but now, 95% if not 100% of our ministry output will be by way of social media.

After speaking with our Mayor Micheal Tubbs, he assured me, that we fall under the *social gathering* guidelines of using a ministry team of 10 or less, for the sole purpose of ministry, whether it is serving the community by giving out food to those who are in need, or providing child daycare for parents who still work, or even videotaping for our Sunday or Wednesday services. I am excited for the opportunity and the challenge to be creative in our ministry approach, as we continue to "*Transform the lives of people by Transferring the Love of Jesus Christ*".

I will be meeting with our ministry leaders, our entire music department and our social media teams to strategize a weekly strike team for our, "*Doing Church Different and creative ministry approach*" so that we will not lose momentum of our Church vision. All of you, will play a major role of evangelism, by way of utilizing all of your/our social media platform's to invite people to log-in and watch all of our services. I will also be doing 5 and 10 minute snippets of a daily devotions via social media for our members. Our church will also implement a dial-in prayer line for all of our members and guest alike.

We will not lose a step as we stand together, unify, encourage each other, pray for our country and our leaders. These are trying times, but we serve an able God. I encourage you, to continue to support your local church with tithes and offering as much as you can, considering the economic pressures that we are all under. I believe that God is going to turn this around, swiftly. Just like in a matter of weeks and days our entire world systems were shaken, I believe that God can and will in put us back in position of stability.

Let us continue pray for those families who have been impacted by this COVID19 crisis whether by health, stranded in another country or loss of employment.

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