

## Tryon Seventh Day Adventist Church

From the Head Elder;

Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

Hello All, I want to take some time each week to write to you about this trying time we are experiencing. First I want to let you know that the Elders and Pastor met yesterday in a video conference. This was a great experience and we were spread from Rutherfordton NC to Charleston SC. All the Elders were there and it was productive.

We came up with a plan for moving forward during the shutdown. Pastor Bran will get Sermons recorded and we'll let you know how to access them. This will not happen this week however and I suggest you take this Sabbath to relax and pull away from the world to get closer to God. Please Pray, If we all hit our knees Sabbath morning and pray for each other, our congregation and for the strength to meet the opportunities that come our way during this time, we will see a difference.

We have a golden opportunity to show the people around us what Gods love and peace looks like. Each of us will have a unique time to make a difference in somebody's life in the coming weeks. Only you will be able to show people how to have comfort in troubling times. Only you will be able to show people how to have peace and serenity when every thing around us is coming apart.

We are ADVENTIST'S we know all about Gods, peace, love, grace, natural beauty and calming effect. Take this time and opportunity to show some one else. It is a great time to bring people to God. They will wonder where you get your peace from, they will wonder why you not worried, they will want some of that. As Jesus said "give freely" what you have received.

So I implore you to look at this time with excitement and opportunity. We may not have another chance like this again in our lifetime, they certainly don't come around often.

Show others the love and peace of Jesus and we'll win hearts for the kingdom during the darkest of times.

We will keep you abreast of what we'll be doing going forward as it pertains to church functions, and how we can do what we can do until this is over. I will get out a weekly communication for encouragement. And be available via phone calls. I would ask everyone to revert back to phone calls as much as possible for more personal communication while we cannot meet in person. Human contact is important for us all and at least the voice has emotion. Feel free to call each other and offer words of encouragement and prayers.

I will not be looking toward the 24 news cycle for my information. The fear

mongering and pandemonium being spread with zeal is too much for me.

I have received some information lately that smaller shops have plenty on the shelf's whereas big box stores just get stampeded whenever they get delivery's. Also people are starting to go to Walmart to "hang around" and meet with each other and get out of the house. This would make it an unsafe environment compared to a smaller store with less people in them. There will be plenty of "stuff" available as time goes on, and doesn't scripture tell us HE will provide, He takes care of the sparrow and are we not worth more than that?. He will provide and we will prevail, as long as we keep our eyes on Him and be "in the world – not of the world".

Have a great relaxing Sabbath, rest up and get ready for there is work for us to do.

Your Brother in Christ  
Ted Coles.