

Tryon Seventh-day Adventist Church

From the Head Elder

Friday, April 3, 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 meet weekly in a video conference and last week was our first attempt at an online Sabbath School and Service. I believe it went well and it was a joy to see others from the church even if it was not in person!! Dr. Kim brought us a great information segment on the virus and how it behaves and what can be done - very educational and enlightening.

Well it's a couple weeks in and I hope you are all faring well. We are staying busy with the usual day-to-day stuff and have not really gotten bored yet. It's hard for me to get bored when I can go outside and see God's beauty and take care of all the things that have been put aside from an all-too-busy life we seem to lead. This is a great time to slow down and reflect on what we have done so far and what we'll do in the future as to how it will impact the world with the work God has for us to do.

Now is a good time for us to remember and live 1Thessalonians 5:16-18. Exodus 19:5 tells me to obey and I will be a peculiar treasure unto God. What peace that brings to my soul. Sure there is a lot of anxiety out there and what's being reported is mostly to achieve good ratings and sensationalize story's to give someone or some news organization a better appearance than others. I read the Wall Street Journal most days and can discern the news I get rather than "drinking from the firehose" as the saying goes. As with scripture, reading gives me an opportunity to digest and not get all hyped up, anxious and fearful. I do have a lot of information on this event and I don't really see much of that being portrayed in the news media today.

Isn't it now really proven by these events that Sister White's calling to come out of the cities more prophetic than ever? I grew up just outside N.Y.C. and left in the late 70's due to the fact I didn't like being around that many people. Then Jeanne and I left South Florida for the same reason in 1996 to come here. God was truly leading. The remarkable part is that we listened!! Isn't that the real ISSUE IN LIFE – whether we listen or not? And when we listen, do we act? The hardest part of a journey is the first step.

This time is a journey for us all, not a troubling time to endure. God brought us here to show the world what true obedience looks like, what true reverence looks like, what true faith looks like. Not the kind that goes against scripture, but the kind that says no matter what I/we can endure, I/we can be content in God and his word. I/we can be helpful to others to see His true Light, Grace and Mercy. We can be the light shining on a hill for all to see.

May the peace of God and Jesus Christ be with you in these coming weeks.

Your Brother in Christ,

Ted Coles