

Tryon Seventh Day Adventist Church

From the Head Elder

Friday April 10, 2020

Hello, Church Members,

Well here we are half-way thru April, and it looks like it may be getting better. Certainly, it is not as bad as first reported, Thank God.

It seems as though we will be moving around more and more as time goes on. Be safe, be careful, be ready to meet the moment God has for you to stir someone's soul for Jesus. This is not so much a catastrophe as it is an opportunity to spread the gospel!!.

It seems as though some in the "News Media" (I use the News term loosely) have completely lost their minds. They seem to want pandemonium, plagues and devastation. Surely some of them would want to see progress, but I can't find it. They remind me of Exodus 32:7 - 9 where God said to Moses, Get down there, your people have turned from My way's and are a "stiff-necked people."

It's a shame about our nursing homes, when the death toll in Washington State had climbed to 23 people early on in this event – 21 of those deaths had come from the same nursing home. This gave me a reason to look at the connection and I learned that 7,200 of the 15,270 nursing homes in America were charged last year with not having proper methods in place to combat infectious spread in their facilities. The numbers now show some states as high as 59% of the death rate coming from nursing homes – it's 25% in New York alone – this is something that needs our prayers. Please join me in adding our nursing homes to your prayer list.

I want to ponder scripture for a moment. Matthew 24:24 tells us that there will be deceivers who would deceive "if it were possible" the very elect. Is that not us – "the very elect?" Are we not the ones who are charged with spreading the Gospel? Are we not the ones who are waiting on the soon coming of Jesus Christ?

Let's look at Colossians 3:12 - 15 and see what it takes to be the Elect of God, Holy and Beloved. Put on Bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness, meekness, longsuffering.

Forbearing one another, forgiving one another, and above all have charity.

Finally let the peace of God be in your hearts and be thankful.

This is a big charge. We may feel overwhelmed and downtrodden, but we are God's chosen people to carry His message of love to the world. So lift up your spirit, and set forth your disposition and come out of Egypt, cross the river to the promised land flowing with milk and honey. Surely God is calling us. Surely God is with us, wanting us to do His bidding. Surely God is watching over us, ever ready to lift us up shall we stumble.

We will have a drive thru prayer this coming Monday, April 20, at our church parking lot. Three elders will be there with gloves and masks on to pray for/with anyone who wants to come through. You will not need to get out of your car. Just open the window and tell us what to pray with you for. I would like to believe we could do this with regularity until we can come together to pray with each other in our church building as is our custom. This will be an opportunity to lift up to God our community, our county, our state, our country, our world. It will be an opportunity to let God know we ARE His very elect, We WILL do His bidding, and we WILL be grateful servants to our loving God Who has carried us this far and will bring us to the end.

Thank you for all your prayers and help through this time of growth.

God Bless.

Your Brother in Christ,

Ted Coles