

Tryon Seventh Day Adventist Church

Tryon SDA “Ted Talk”

May 8th 2020

Well, Well, Well, Here we are Entering Phase One today for North Carolina. Sounds promising – till you read what Phase One is. Not much different from Phase Zero. Gatherings are still limited to 10 people or less, unless it’s a family gathering held outside. Unless they ramp it up rather quickly, (from reading the tea leaves) we will probably not be able to open the church for another several weeks. We need to get to the point where 150 people can gather together – INSIDE!!!!. We’ll see how long it takes.

I do hope you all are doing reasonably well. It is harder on our older members as we should be really careful of the virus as it kills older folks with an alarming rate. I mentioned about a month ago that we don’t have a pandemic problem so much as we have a nursing home problem in the US and it seems my statement was more correct than I would like.

To our older members please be careful, unfortunately its the kids that can spread this thing to the older folks. This will pass and we will return to “normal” because we always do. The last major pandemic 1917-1918, WW1, WW2, The Depression, the Recession, need I really go on?. You will be hugging your grandchildren again.

Once again I want to re-iterate, take the nightly news casts and the cable news with a grain (maybe a pound) of salt. There is alot of information out there that does not “make” the news. Germany had the same infection rate as their neighboring country’s but 25% of the death rate. South Korea did a great job of stopping this thing. Singapore also. Sweden has done well, but their older folks are practicing social distancing as we are.

It looks like the death rate will be nowhere what was predicted in the beginning. Imagine that predictions are wrong, hmmm. We know as Adventists that the time of trouble is coming and it will be great. I would contend that this is merely a wakeup call for what it to come. Let’s remember what the bible has taught us and continue to reach out to the world the let them know that this is not all there is and that God wins. Remember what God said to Isaiah in Isiah 49:6 “ it is a light thing to be my servant, to raise up everybody and restore the preserved of Israel. I will give you for a light to the gentiles that you may be my salvation to the end of the earth”. Sounds like what we should be doing. Not wasting our time on how this virus will affect us, not how we should or shouldn’t do what we need to do, not how we shouldn’t get the message out there because we are told not to.

Remember that the world does not want our message out there. This whole deal is proof that the world would rather suffer than hear the message of hope. I have a hard time lately with some people who just don't want to know that God is in charge and my faith is in him not in this world. That I have the peace of Jesus Christ in my soul and it makes living through this much easier. I know wherever my faith leads me I can do what I am lead to do, and what I can't do, as the serenity prayer says "wisdom to know the difference". I know where I can be of help and I know where I can't, it's the where I can't part that hurts so much. Life is good. I want to live by the words of Isaiah 49:6 to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

I have peace, That statement means a lot. That statement is profound. That statement is simple. As it should be.

Have peace.

God Bless.

Your Brother in Christ
Ted Coles.