



Chicago – April 9, 2020 – **COVID-19 EASTER Special on the Total Living Network**

In recognition of the most holy of Christian holidays – Resurrection Day – and the COVID-19 pandemic continuing across the globe with most U.S. states' shelter-in-place orders extending beyond Easter Sunday, the Total Living Network has produced an original 2020 program: COVID-19 EASTER SPECIAL.

The COVID-19 EASTER SPECIAL features TLN's Chairman Jerry Rose (from Arizona), President & CEO Debra Fraser (from California) and COO Greg Bogdan (from Illinois) using technology for a timely conversation about the networks' ongoing ministry and outreach during the Coronavirus crisis.

"For the first time in our history, church communities are unable to congregate on the most celebrated Christian holiday," said Debra Fraser. *"Pastors, with a heart for people, are finding themselves personally vulnerable to the virus while homeless shelters are also feeling the effects of COVID-19 with depleted resources and high-risk occupants."*

Debra Fraser, also a member of the executive board of the National Religious Broadcasting Association, was specifically affected by a timely statement from the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome M. Adams, who as a Christian, husband and father, encouraged prayer among the faith-based community for the Coronavirus Task Force and for his family. *"25-50% of American individuals who are spreading the virus don't know that they have it,"* said Dr. Adams. *"I'm a man of faith and personally look forward to getting together with my family for Easter, but the reality is that this is serious and deaths in the U.S. are on par with Italy right now."*

Speaking of Dr. Adams, Jerry Rose said, *"It's great to know that there's someone at the helm of our nation who knows medicine, but also understands that there's a God in charge of our healing."*

The EASTER COVID-19 SPECIAL updates viewers on frontline organizations like the Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond, CA and Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago, IL – both shelters ministering to the jobless and homeless. Reverend John Anderson, President/CEO of the Bay Area Rescue Mission is quoted and an interview between Debra Fraser and Pastor Phil Kwaitkowski is included in the special. Both leaders share how the pandemic is affecting their missions in terms of ill residents, quarantined sections of their facilities and lack of volunteers who are now sheltering-at-home.

Greg Bogdan shared, *"When we heard that a shelter-in-place order was about to be announced, we immediately went into action to produce multiple programs in our studio with different pastors discussing how we can view the coronavirus crisis through a spiritual lens. This new Easter special was produced this week from our various sites with different technology, and TLN will continue to bring viewers original programming in response to COVID-19."*

Jerry Rose shared a perspective on this unique Easter holiday, occurring during a serious pandemic and most communities in lock-down: *"This Easter season is going to be different than anything we've experienced. New York has cancelled its famous 5th Avenue Easter Parade and neighborhood Easter Egg hunts and other gatherings will not take place. And maybe that's OK. Some of our traditional Easter traditions, most quite superficial, are gone this year. And we're left with the only thing that really matters: the commemoration of the most important event in human history. Let this Easter be a time of personal reflection and spiritual renewal for all of us on a personal level."*

The TLN EASTER COVID-19 SPECIAL will be aired on TLN at Thursday 4/09/20 @ 8:00pm; Friday 4/10/20 @ 7:00pm; Saturday 4/11 @ 7:00pm and Easter Sunday 4/12/20 @ 6:30am, 4:00pm and 9:30pm (all times CST). It will air on TLNWest on Thursday 4/09/20 @ 8:00pm; Friday 4/10/20 @ 7:00pm; Saturday 4/11 @ 7:00pm and Easter Sunday 4/12/20 @ 5:30am, 4:00pm and 7:00pm (all times PST).

While church communities are adhering to the emergency declaration prohibiting more than 10 persons to gather at a time, TLN is working to open up airtime to COVID-19 related messages to benefit our viewers and to provide more video accessibility to congregations. This weekend features two ministries airing on both TLN and TLNWest: David Patterson, Senior Pastor of Father's House, Saturday April 11, 6:00pm & Sunday April 12 at 5:30pm as well as Doug Heisel of New Life Church Saturday April 11, 6:30pm & Sunday April 12 at 5:00pm (all times are both CST and PST).

The Total Living Network launched as WCFC TV38 in 1976 with Mayor Richard J. Daley presiding as guest speaker at the McCormick Place dedication. Over its forty-plus years of operation, TLN and TLNWest have produced original programming serving the Chicagoland and San Francisco faith communities and received numerous Midwest Emmy awards. TLN can be viewed in the greater Chicago region on cable exclusively on XFINITY basic channel 138. Go to www.tln.com and www.tlnwest.tv for live streams and ways to watch.

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