



Pandemic Plan for the Church

Ministering to the Community in a Time of Crisis

Ministers of Grace

Two women who have had great influence on my life, and even the in the formation of this ministry are Florence Nightingale and Mother Teresa. I have read several biographies, in addition to the letters and writings of both. I have contemplated on their lives and how God used them in times of need to minister to so many. I have pondered how both, against great opposition and many critics, achieved ministries and answered their calling. One morning, as I sat praying, I asked the Lord what these two women had most in common, and why He has used their examples so much in my life. I realized that they both wanted to form a type of sisterhood to train and equip lay people, in order to meet the needs of the sick and injured. Although Mother Teresa formed Missionaries of Charity, a sisterhood with vows; Florence Nightingale sought a similar structure, but without the requirement of vows.

This entire guidebook has been written as a means of equipping the Body to be enabled to serve in the event of a pandemic. If a pandemic were to occur with the virulence of the 1918 influenza, the consequences would be devastating. The entire world would be affected and even the infrastructure of society would be disrupted. As mentioned, the healthcare system would be overwhelmed. Caring for the sick may be left to those with no formal training or education in the healthcare field.

As you consider implementing this plan, you should also consider the proper training and equipping of your people in order to serve effectively in caring for the sick. A teaching ministry set up for those who wish to serve in an alternative care facility (ACF) would have to be established. This training would be to educate them on the dangers of the transmission of the disease, and how to properly protect themselves, in addition to the other topics discussed.

Some type of formal training will have to take place in order to qualify the people to serve as volunteers in the ACF. In addition, knowing in advance the roles and responsibilities one would have would aid in the implementation of the ACF when the time came. Consider engaging an RN, MD, or Paramedic as an instructor. You might inquire at your local community college if anyone would be interested in heading up the instruction. Another resource would be your local health department.

Invite everyone who would like to participate. If the government were to enforce social distancing, schools would be the first to close; teachers would be out of work during this time. Retired nurses, doctors, and other healthcare workers would be vital to the group. Other retired folk would also play an important role. In addition, reach out to surrounding churches, they too may have people who can either teach, or would want to participate. Take a collection to donate to the teachers for their services.

These classes could span the time spread of two or more weekends, depending on how much of the plan you want to incorporate for your particular body. In addition, regularly

scheduled classes should be held in order to maintain and reinforce any information shared for better retention. Remember to reiterate to those attending, this training would not replace formal education at a college or university. It is meant to enable volunteers to participate in an ACF, and care for their loved ones in the event of a pandemic.

The time spent training will prove very valuable in the wake of a pandemic. It will develop the skills and understanding for various disciplines discussed in this book. In addition, it will enable the Church to not fall victim but be in a position to share the gospel in the time of crisis.