



P. O. Box 684 · Bradenton, FL 34206 · 941-748-0509

March 17, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

I am writing to update and encourage you as we go through this period of trial. This coronavirus brings to mind some of the stories found in the Bible where nations were suddenly stricken with plagues. Even though this virus seems to be a worldwide event that has caused panic and fear globally, I maintain that GOD is in control and that He is our very present help in the time of a crisis. (*Read Psalm 46*) Also, we are taught not to worry about these tribulations but instead we are to glorify GOD and maintain our hope in HIM. (*See Romans 5:1-8 and Psalm 37, Isaiah 35:4*)

As you may know by now we have chosen to **cancel all activities at the church** for at least fourteen days to comply with the Federal and State guidelines for public assemblies. We are also allowing this time for self-quarantine as needed. This timeframe also corresponds with the school closure dates and will hopefully make it less challenging for parents. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume services by **Sunday, April 5, 2020**. In the interim I am asking as many as will to fast and pray for the citizens of the world that are impacted by this virus and that GOD will bless the leaders and decision makers with Godly wisdom and compassion for those being impacted. We would encourage a modified fast designed to accommodate your particular needs. Any fast simply requires us to forsake our desires as a demonstration to GOD our earnestness and sincerity in our prayers and sacrifice to HIM. Remember, "The effectual and fervent prayer of the righteous avails much".

During this time as we wait on the LORD to resolve our concerns about this virus, I ask you to join me in prayer for the church and for each other. Also, I ask you to continue in your study of God's word. Use the internet to locate sites offering Bible Trivia and occupy yourself answering the associated questions. Another suggestion is to research a topic like love, sin, salvation or whatever your interest may be. Most of all be sober and watchful, respecting the guidelines that have been established for your safety. We are trusting God to guide us Spiritually, but HE also expects us to use the wisdom HE has given us as we go forward.

Finally, we are asking you to maintain your support of the financial needs of this church. You can mail your tithes and offerings to P.O. Box 684, Bradenton, FL 34206. You can also use our Electronic Giving App "Give-Plus Church". Instructions for on-line giving are enclosed. Also, to accommodate churches during this crisis our on-line provider, Vanco Payment Systems, will take donations over the phone. You may call Vanco Client Services at 800 -675-7430.

Once again, I want each of you to know that I LOVE you and will be praying for the safety of you and your family.

Believing God's Promises,

Willie J. Holley

Rev. Willie J. Holley, Th.D.

Senior Pastor