

March 12, 2020

Subject: To all the dear saints in the church in NYC

Dear brothers and sisters,

Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic first began to surface in this country in early February, we began to monitor the situation closely, anticipating a potential outbreak in New York City and preparing so that there would be the least disruption possible to the church life. We brothers are in constant fellowship with the view and intention to do as much as possible in order to ensure that all the saints in all nine halls are safe and cared for.

Both the State of New York and the City of New York have issued new restrictions on public gatherings. We are working with the serving saints in each hall to ensure that we will follow as closely as possible the issued guidelines from the government. We have done an evaluation of the situation in each of our nine meeting halls and most of our halls will not be greatly impacted by the new restrictions, if at all. For the halls which are impacted more, we will leave it to the brothers serving in each hall to communicate with the saints meeting in each of their respective halls.

More multimedia formats are being deployed accordingly for our Lord's Day meetings, small group meetings, and seniors' meetings, and possibly even our children's meetings and young people meetings. Our hope is that there would be a way for any saints or families who decide for whatever reason not to attend a meeting to be able to still participate in the fellowship and receive a supply through some multimedia format. For example, if any saints would not be able to attend one of the Lord's Day meetings, there will always be the option of watching the meeting in Hall 1 (Jamaica Estates) via Livestream. Similar arrangements are being worked out for most of the halls.

Also with the health of the saints in view, we have decided to cancel the following events which had been scheduled to be held at Camp Penuel (KPCC): (1) The Spanish-speaking Conference scheduled to be held this coming weekend (March 13-15); (2) The Young Working Saints and Young Families Blending scheduled for March 20-21; and (3) The Northeast Spring Young People's Conference scheduled for April 9-12. In addition, the citywide young people's outing scheduled for this coming Saturday, March 14, has been postponed.

Although we understand the gravity of the situation and are taking all these necessary precautions, our prayer is that none of the saints would be alarmed or anxious, but rather that we all would cast every anxiety on the Lord, trust fully in Him and have the peace which surpasses every man's understanding (1 Pet. 5:7; Phil. 4:6-7). We also pray that this situation would turn out to salvation for many, and that the result for all of us would be more of a "day by day" and "house to house" church life (Phil. 1:19; Acts 2:46). We are standing firmly with you all.

Your servants in our dear Lord Jesus Christ,
The serving brothers in the church in New York City