Bellville Seventh-day Adventist® Church

ADMINISTRATION

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19 March 2020

To All Church Members

Dear Bellville Congregation,

In response to the very stringent regulations instituted by the Government of South Africa, and the clear directives from the Leadership of the General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Board decided on the following measures. These measures would apply until further notice. The Board will meet from time to time, while the elders will be in constant communication, to assess the situation and inform the congregation of any change in the church's position.

1) ALL WORSHIP GATHERINGS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. This include the main Sabbath Gatherings of the Divine Service, the Sabbath School and the Tuesday and Wednesday Prayer Meetings. This applies also to other departments, for example, ACS, Youth and Pathfinders meetings, that would normally take place on a Sabbath, or any other time. In other words, the church building will be closed.

All departmental executives are encouraged to meet, to discuss and plan, but must stay mindful of the stringent precautionary measures announced. This could be useful time to consider and adjust the programs of the department. Elders responsible for the department must be informed of such meetings.

2) The leadership implore and encourage all members to continue with even greater devotion, the worship of our Lord and Saviour on the Sabbath. This worship can now take place in the quiet of your family environment. This extraordinary crisis could therefore be seen as a beautiful opportunity to revitalize your relationship with your Creator as well as with your immediate family. Should anybody need special spiritual support, the leadership remain available.

3) As the Tithes and Offerings form a fundamental part of our worship, it is essential that we stay faithful in returning these blessings to our Lord. This is the time "to test Him, saith the Lord of Hosts". Those who have access to electronic means of payment are encouraged to make use of this method. Because we do not have the usual envelopes to indicate the allocation of your offerings, all amounts transferred must be clearly marked in respect of the allocation for tithe and the various offerings, particularly church expense, which drives all our local programs of outreach and running costs.

Many of our members are still not linked to any electronic means of payment. In such cases the alternative is to do bank deposits. In cases where this is not possible treasury/deaconry will arrange physical visits for collection of tithes and offerings on pre-arranged times. This method will be refined further by treasury and the responsible elder.

4) Lastly, the Board noted the decision taken by the Cape Conference and the PLC w.r.t. the cancellation of the upcoming Camp Meeting. Elder Desai will assist with any refunds of accommodation deposits.

In conclusion, I appeal to all members to observe, without exception, the very pertinent regulations as well as precautions for both individual and community health and safety. It is our individual responsible behavior that will bring an end to this disastrous crisis. This is also an opportunity to reflect and resolve on many of our habits and tendencies which sadly do not always respect the natural health principles so clearly outlined in our church beliefs. While the health principles the world is advising in fighting the newest pandemic, our church have been forerunners of these health principles since its inception. This is a crisis that should not be wasted, but be used to demonstrate and witness the importance of the Health Message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

God bless you and keep you in accordance with the promise in Isaiah which says, " You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Therefore trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord is the rock eternal".

Eltie Links
Head Elder