

RE: COVID-19 (Second Update from Faith Elders)
Date: March 10, 2020

Hello Faith Family

(the following was shared this past Sunday)

With cases of coronavirus rising each day in Canada and around the world, the full effect is still unclear.

However, what is clear is that, as a society, we will likely experience significant disruption as a result of this global health crisis.

Today, as I write this, the government of Canada has not advised or demanded the stop of mass gatherings. The only encouragement has been for everyone to practice hygiene precautions. Wash hands (antibacterial hand gel is second option) and stay home if feeling sick. All people should listen to the instructions from our health officials and prepare.

Now, as Christians, we should also do **THREE** things.

First, **Pray**. Especially for those who have been directly affected by the virus (death or sickness). Pray for people who are at greater risk. Pray for medical professionals, and government decision makers. Pray for containment and also a vaccine to be produced ASAP. Pray for miracles. And pray for the witness of the church of Jesus Christ.

Third, **Encourage**. Many people are afraid. Let us remind one another that God is sovereign over illness and suffering. Also, let us be careful about humour. People deal with fear in different ways, however, we are still talking about illness and suffering that has led to numerous deaths.

Fourth, **Do Not Be Anxious**. We are to be vigilant but not panic. I read one pastor putting it this way. "Let us be the non-anxious presences that speaks of the Prince of Peace and His wonderful coming kingdom."

As faith family, we are going to continue to meet in person. Of course, that may change. However, elders will continue to pray and discern if we need to make any changes. In the next few days, we will consider how we do communion, our small group meetings, how we serve food during refreshments, and etc. Again, this is to be vigilant not panic.

One last thing. Our faith family is a pretty affectionate church. We love shaking hands, hugging, and even greeting one another with a holy kiss. We see it all the time. However, for now, consider the other person. He or she may not be comfortable. In fact, check with one another. And don't be offended if you want to shake hands or hug but the other person does not want to. It's not personal.

Still, let us continue to love God, love God's people, and discern how we can love God's world.

(the following is an addition)

Everyone should educate themselves with (at least) basic information about the virus and avoid rumours, assumptions, and innuendoes. A good resources can be found on canada.ca/coronavirus. By the way, if you are overwhelmed with too much information, please take only small steps.

Having said that, we have attached three documents that may be helpful.

COVID-19-BE PREPARED (Produced by Health Canada to help with physical safety. English and Persian/Farsi.)

The Coronavirus Outbreak: Managing the Impact (Produced by Homewood Health to address mental and emotional stress.) (HT Will S.)

COVID-19: Briefing Note (Produced by McKinsey and Company. Though it is to give insight into the economic impact, the first half is really a thorough summary on where we are globally with this virus.) (HT Pam S.)

If you have any concerns, questions, or thoughts, please do not hesitate to speak with someone, especially, any of the leaders.

Elders of Faith Church

Sean Huh
Will Shin
Wayne Shin