

Dear Shady Acres Family,

A deep look at history reminds us that very few generations have been free from troubles. From floods to famines to pestilences to plagues, changing situations in our world have always demanded changing responses. Paul even wrote to the Corinthians about a "present distress" of a nature that is not known to us today, and in so doing advised them to change the way they were doing some things.

Because of our present distress today, we feel that it is in our best interest to change the way we are doing some things. I made the statement this past Sunday that we will NOT cease to worship our God. And we shall not. But in light of the information we have about COVID-19, we do not feel it is wise to continue doing things the way we have. We will, therefore, be cancelling every activity of the church at Shady Acres except for our 10:00 Sunday morning worship through April 4. This includes the cancellation of Sunday morning Bible classes, Sunday evening worship, Wednesday night Bible study, and ALL other activities, including Barnabas, Women of Valor Prayer Group, and youth activities. We understand, also, that even with these unprecedented and drastic measures, further steps may yet be required.

Please, dear brethren, understand that this decision was not made lightly. This is not a matter of persecution or intimidation, but a matter of the physical wellbeing of our spiritual family. This too shall pass. In the meantime, we need to be cautious and considerate of others. Please, if you are at high risk, please stay home. Please. We have a deep appreciation for the strong feelings we all possess regarding gathering to worship, but we feel these steps are best to protect those who can least afford to become infected.

And, in the meantime, we will continue to worship, and we will continue to serve. With the advent of "social distancing," this may include becoming creative in our ways to serve. Some may be called upon to provide care, some to mow, some to send cards, some to text. Look for the opportunities before you to share the good news of salvation. While maintaining social distances, we would also urge you to close spiritual distances between you and the Lord, and you and your Christian family.

We love you all, and we want everyone to stay healthy and safe. We pledge to get things "back to normal" as soon as it is safe to do so.

In Service of the Master,

Keith