



Africa Missions News

Go...teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
—Jesus in Matthew 28:19

March 2020

EMPOWERING LEADERS THROUGH MINISTERIAL, EVANGELISM, AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Dear partner,

I wanted to encourage you during these strange times. In South Africa, we are in the beginning of a 21-day lockdown, because of the COVID-19 virus. What should our response as believers be in these difficult days? How should the church respond?

An obscure text in the Old Testament tells the action during another difficult time in history. In Isaiah 26:20 we read, *Go home, my people and lock your doors! Hide yourself for a little while until the Lord's anger has passed.*

The days spent in shutdown confining families to their homes can be a time of re-discovering family values that have been lost due to the many pressures and demands on our time in the secular world. Families can do things together like enjoying breakfasts, entertainment, playing with their animals, and having fun with the children, etc.

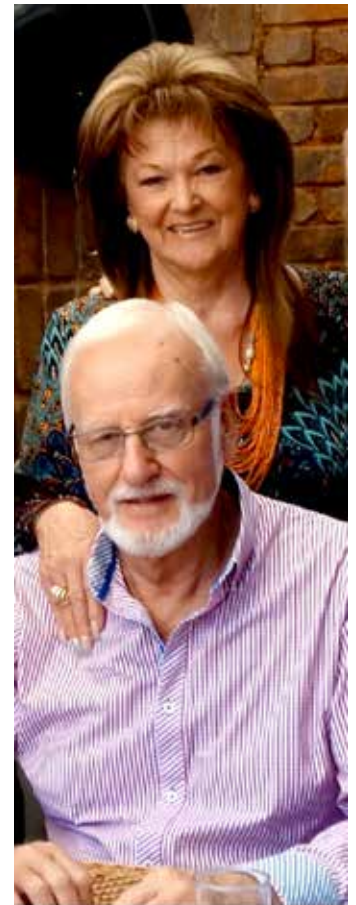
It is also a time for reflection. Religious activity is usually practised away from home like going to church or taking the kids to a youth function. We now have the opportunity of praying together as a family, studying the Bible together, teaching the children the discipline of devotions, and being selective in the television programmes the family usually enjoy and focus more on TBN, Faith Channel, or God T.V. The coming days, if managed well, can be very enriching and enjoyable for the whole family.

The coming together as believers in church services is completely disrupted with the 21-day government shutdown here in South Africa! The question is whom should we obey? The Lord or the government? The shutdown will affect the economy of the country, and local churches will also be adversely affected financially. This has presented major challenges. How should believers respond?

1. Let's make full use of modern technology. Live-streaming is a great alternative. In fact, after the shutdown, the way we do Church may have a new face.
2. Let's be faithful in our giving. Our giving does not depend on our going to church but because we are the church. Electronic banking is a blessing to the church!
3. Let's use social media to have great fellowship with other believers. We can still pray and encourage each other. Our modus operandi may change but the results can still be the same or even better.
4. We now have time on our hands to catch up on a few things we have been neglecting in our home and lives.

I realize that many will become bored stiff with nothing or very little happening. Latch on to the innovators within the family. I have never been bored for one minute in my entire life! I keep my family moving. In fact we have so much to do that I am afraid we will be running out of time. Twenty-one days will be too short!

The shutdown will also accentuate loneliness. Due to circumstances, disappointment or simply be-



GOD
is my
salvation,
I will trust
and
not be
afraid.

Isaiah 12:2 NKJV

ing the person you are much time is spent alone. This could be devastating. Perhaps you will be the most adversely affected person during this time. Take comfort in this fact: you are not alone. The Lord is your constant companion and He is your best company. Contact people on your cell phone. WhatsApp family and friends. Enjoy good music. Write letters to everybody you can. I hope you too will run out of time, as you make the most of these weeks!

We are praying for you to make it through with His peace, safety, and blessing!



Staying in His peace,

Ron & Rina Kinnear
and the AFRICA MISSIONS TEAM

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