

Peace!

I wanted to take some intentional time to bring you a Word and some news in light of our current situation.

A Word of Encouragement

- During this time, I hear people say, “Do not fear,” or, “I am not afraid.”
- Others are saying, “We need to be wise and cautious, and heed what the CDC is saying.”
- Then, some are saying, “Just believe and trust God.”

ALL statements are appropriate and valid. There is a place for all these messages.

It has been wonderful to hear how people are reaching out to neighbors, the vulnerable, the poor, to friends and family. It is as if our compassion and ministry senses have come alive!

However, we want EVERY person to feel like they are LOVED, and we want every person to be LOVING.

Be LOVED and Be LOVING

What does this mean?

- If you feel compelled to go on to the streets (for example) and minister, be loved and be loving in what you do. You are so loved for feeling the way you do! Be “loved” but also boldly love others and show your love to others by understanding if they don’t join you on your mission.
- If you feel compelled to meet your neighbors (for example) and ask them if they need help, be loved in doing that for them and show your love to your neighbors. Some may do the same as you—others may not do that.
- If you feel like Facetiming, calling or texting people to encourage others, then be loved in doing that, and be loving of others who don’t do it.

At Cornerstone, our Family has SO many gifts! MAKE sure that you use your gifts in this time to reach others, and at the same time, BLESS others to serve their gifts in their unique ways.

I hope this makes sense and resonates with you!

If you read this email, it means you are a GIFT. We love you – we love how God uses YOU and we celebrate that we’re all going to serve in the way God has gifted us!

We must not allow the enemy to divide us as a Family.

Everyone in our Family is accepted, validated, loved and affirmed!

Nobody in our Family needs to feel inferior, insignificant, fearful, anxious, rejected, or insecure.

We will love each other and be loved. We are a beautiful Family!

Important Cornerstone NEWS and UPDATES – COVID19

Saturday Church

- For the next two Saturdays (March 21st and 28th), we are not going to meet at the church building. Instead, we are going to be streaming LIVE on FACEBOOK from 5 – 6 pm. Watch the Cornerstone Facebook page for more information.

PopUp Churches

I am asking for our Family to be very understanding here.

On the one hand, according to our Mayor, “the City of St. Petersburg will not allow an event or public gathering that consists of more than 50 people until further notice”

(<http://www.stpete.org/emergency/covid-19.php>).

On the other hand, the federal and local governments have made some recommendations asking that no sick or health-compromised person should leave their homes; that people conform to social distancing; and Health officials recommend limiting gatherings to less than 10 people. These things are not mandated, some people feel it is wise to support these efforts.

This is what we are asking our Family: if you feel the confidence and passion to want to go to PopUp Church and you personally choose to do so, that we encourage you to follow your heart and conviction and that you also follow all the suggested health guidelines. If you decide to go, please contact Guy, Samika, or Jack so they can give you some guidelines.

If you feel that you want to stay home and not go to PopUp Church, then that is also good. Like Guy said, “We are a family of grace.”

Living Rooms (Mid-week Groups)

Depending how this pandemic plays out, Living Rooms may become the essential hubs for our Church family to meet.

In the meantime, please contact your Living Room leaders (see the Living Room attachment) about their respective plans. They will also be in touch with you. In the meantime, Guy’s Thursday morning and evening groups are meeting, as is my Friday morning group.

Prayer

Matthew 18:18-20 (The Passion Translation)

Jesus said, “*Receive this truth: Whatever you forbid on earth will be considered to be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you release on earth will be considered to be released in heaven.* 19 Again, I give you an eternal truth: **If two of you agree to ask God for something in a symphony of prayer, my heavenly Father will do it for you.** 20 For wherever two or three come together in honor of my name, I am right there with them!”

Specifically pray for these and ANY other prayer requests:

1. Boldness to make use of opportunities to share the Good News in these times
2. Business owners
3. Employees whose incomes are affected
4. Wisdom, revelation, and insight to minister to others
5. Prophetic words
6. Healing for the sick
7. For this virus to die
8. Protection of hearts, minds, homes, family, friends, income, and jobs
9. Creativity, innovations, and inventions
10. Our national and local leaders

Giving

With the church not meeting in the building for several weeks (at least), we are asking people to please remain faithful in their giving as the Lord provides and takes care of us. As a church, we have commitments that we trust God to remain faithful. We encourage you to continue to give in one of the following ways:

1. Mail your love-gift and tithe in a check to “Cornerstone, 3838 28th St N. Saint Petersburg FL 33714.”
2. Website: www.CornerstoneFamily.org then click the GIVING button
3. Use the Give + Mobile App (Search and Select “Cornerstone Bible Church”)
4. “Text to Give” (727) 339-5682. Follow the directions.

Compassion Initiatives

Guy and I have several resources available for people who do not have food. Please contact us if you have a neighbor, family member, or friend in need of food.

One of them is Pinellas County Schools. They have a meal program for children 18 and under. Click the link below:

<https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/11436/school-meals-during-closure-2020-2.pdf>

Pastoral Needs

If you are struggling during this season, Pastor Guy and I are available to take calls or messages. PLEASE do not hesitate to call us.

Blessing

You are LOVED.

- Spend time with Papa in Chair One!
- Spend quality time with your family.
- Reach out to those in need.
- Spread the Good News of Jesus to your neighbors.
- Give generously as the Lord blesses you.
- Serve others kindly.
- Love unconditionally!

Your EP (Executive Pastor)

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PS. Peace (Shalom) is an all-inclusive word, which means safety, completeness, security, soundness, welfare, health, prosperity, quiet, tranquility, contentment, friendship, harmony in relationships, and especially friendship with God in covenant partnership. Jesus specifically told His disciples:

“I leave the gift of peace with you—My peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but My perfect peace. Don’t yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous!” (John 14:27)