



Templeton Hills
“....an house of prayer for all people”
Isaiah 56:7

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Dear Church Family & Friends,

We had a very encouraging conference call prayer time last night. Several of you told me how needed it was! We have another one Friday night at 7pm (More on that below). We need to press together more now than we ever have before.

I'm so thankful for technology because **we will not be having any meetings or gatherings at our church building at least until April 12** due to San Luis Obispo County, CDC, and Federal requirements, as well as the attached directive from the Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

I believe we can follow all of these guidelines in good faith given the health laws God gave in Leviticus 13 & Numbers 5 for quarantining in times of infectious disease. Jesus clearly upheld these health principles when he healed lepers (Luke 5:14, Matt 8:4, Luke 17:14, & Mark 1:44).

But that does not mean church is cancelled! Did you know the word we translate "church" in the new testament has nothing to do with a building? The word is *ekklēsia*. It basically means, the "called out ones". Called out of the darkness of misunderstanding who God is and into the marvelous light of the reality that He is your loving Father! (1 Peter 2:9)

So the good news is that we will continue to function as the church. We'll just need to try to use more technology to connect, and encourage each other towards Jesus while maintaining the distance necessary to protect each other's health!

I'm praying especially for those of us who are more vulnerable. Please know the church is here to aid you in anything you might need from groceries, to phone calls, to prayer and encouragement.

I'm also praying for those of you who are being impacted financially through the economic hardships this is causing. We are establishing a local "Coronavirus Response" account to help those who will be struggling in our community (both within and outside the church). If you'd like to give to that just follow this link: <https://www.adventistgiving.org/?OrgID=ANP8PV> (this same link also allows you to return tithe, give to local church budget, and most of the other offerings you are accustomed to at church).

Some of you will have extra time that I pray will enable you to build your friendship with Jesus, and your relationship with your family.

I plan to send out an encouraging message and ideas for spiritual encouragement and worship before each Sabbath that you can use for your home worship services.

But for now, if you are already having extra time and are looking for spiritual encouragement here are three quick links where we plan to be providing more resources for encouragement over the coming days:

- Local sermon and other seminar audio recordings: <https://templetonhills.adventistfaith.org/podcasts>
- Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVgOiUUKOGQPdJALo3Pw-fA>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TempletonHillsSDA/>

Finally, as I mentioned at the beginning, tomorrow night from 7-8pm we will be having another prayer conference call. To join in just call (605) 475-4765 and when prompted enter access code 634058 .

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." -Philippians 4:7-8

I'm praying for each of you to have His peace in your heart that guards our minds even when we don't understand everything that is taking place around us!

Blessings!



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