

GSC PRESIDENT TERRY JOHNSON RE AUC-WIDE CHURCH CLOSURE**March 17th, 2020**

My dear brothers, sisters and fellow leaders of God's movement in the Greater Sydney Conference:

It's been an eventful 24 hours since my last correspondence. As I stated yesterday, things are fluid and changing all the time and we need to respond rapidly as befits the circumstances.

Please find on the sydney.adventist.org.au/news-archive/coronavirus page (see "Updated Responses" section) a letter from the Australian Union Conference (AUC) that you will need to put into action.

The virus has now infected more than 450 people in Australia and has doubled within 4 days. As a result, and in keeping with decisions that our denomination is making worldwide, the nine (9) Australian Conference presidents along with the AUC administration voted an action to recommend strongly to every church in Australia to suspend all church activities until the end of April 2020.

Please see this for what it is; *a need to care for our community of believers and seeking community, in a proactive, sensible manner*. Continuity of community and fellowship in worship will now need to be done in innovative new ways that the Lord will use to draw more to Him. It is now for you to discuss amongst your leadership teams as to how best to proceed in making these closures effective for your communities and to decide when to begin the cessation of activities.

From the AUC ministers resource site, your pastors will have access to a number of resources that they can share with you. Links of worship services, resources that you can download and use in home groups and the like.

We will be continually reviewing and informing you of what needs to be done through this journey. We are by your side in Christian unity and belief even if we can't be in person. The Conference office remains open as per my letter of March 16th. Please look out for the vulnerable and infirm amongst you. Love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the way that they will know that we are His disciples. Be different from the maddening crowds that are making life difficult in supermarkets and elsewhere. Show the hope that we believe in.

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Allow me to remind you of the following, "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm." That is a promise from God that we can trust in. Joshua 1:9 says, "Be of good courage. Do not fear!"

Brothers and sisters, God is not surprised by our current crisis and He has a way through it that will bring glory to His name, His character and His end time message.

While things look uncertain, remember that Scripture has given absolute certainty for those who believe. Rejoice for your Lord draws near.

In Christ our Lord and Saviour;

Blessings,

Terry Johnson
President, Communications Director

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