



The Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas
La Conferencia de la Iglesia Metodista en el Caribe y las Americas
La Conférence de l'Eglise Méthodiste dans la Caraïbe et les Amériques
De Conferentie van de Methodiste Kerk en het Caribisch Gebied, Midden en Zuid Amerika

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March 25, 2020

Ref. 2178/03/2020

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Treasurer of Conference Funds

Dear Partners in Ministry:

Grace, peace and love in the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Comforter!

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic please be assured of our thoughts and prayer for you. We are aware of the magnitude of the spread of the virus on your people, the policies imposed by your government and the extensive demands on the medical personnel. We are saddened by the many families who are now bereaved due to the virus.

The Novel Coronavirus is constraining the world community to acknowledge that we are and family and are more connected than we often pretend to be. Even as we are encouraged to practice "social distancing" we are compelled to recognize that **"no man is an island, no stands alone. Each man's joy is joy to me. Each man's grief is my own"** (Joan Baez).

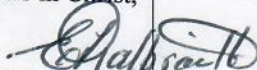
While we are saddened by the virus and its spread we will not overlook the fact that in many parts of the world the earth is breathing a fresher air, noise pollution has disappeared and our companions on earth are getting a sense of freedom as they roam undisturbed by human and human activities.

In our region this pandemic is unleashing havoc on the cruise and tourist industries. Consequently, the economies of most countries, many still in the process of recovery after recent natural disasters, are now facing uncertain futures. The closure of ports of entry and hotels have begun to plunge many individuals, families and small businesses into financial crisis.

Abiding by the precautionary discipline of "social distancing" and the restrictions on large gatherings has resulted in the suspension of worship in most chapels. We thank God that modern technology is enabling us to connect with many members and provide them with spiritual sustenance. We celebrate the many expressions of kindness and selflessness by our pastors, educators, medical practitioners, security forces, other essential workers and neighbours.

God's commands us to **"fear not"** and **"be courageous"** in the face of danger and crisis. God has promised to be with us **"all the days of our lives"** and this promise has never and will never be broken or amended. Therefore, God is with us even as we go through this valley. We know that God is **"able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or imagine"**. Therefore, let us continue to intercede for each other and for our world. Let us pray that as leaders in our communities we will display courage, hope, generosity, trust and kindness and that when this "valley" is crossed, we will be better individually and collectively.

Yours in Christ,


Bishop, The Rev'd Everal L. Galbraith
Connexional President, MCCA

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