



15 February 2020

Pastoral Letter to the Christalite Family on the COVID-19 Situation

Dear Christalite family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As a nation and a church we are living in trying times as we navigate this COVID-19 situation. Over the past few weeks, we have put in place precautionary measures like temperature screening, travel declarations and contact tracing procedures. I wish to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your cooperation.

Nevertheless, even with these measures in place, some may wonder if we can do more; especially in view that some churches have already begun to suspend their weekly worship services. As Pastor-in-Charge (PIC), I must admit that it is a difficult balance to strike between faith and prudence. I do seek your prayers for the leadership at Christalite as we continue to negotiate such times.

As you would have heard, MOH has met with church leaders yesterday and advised that churches may continue to gather for worship with the appropriate precautionary measures in place. Following this, MCS / TRAC has decided that we will continue as long as the appropriate measures are in place; and are not directed by MOH otherwise. Therefore, Christalite's worship services and CGs will continue to meet.

As a summary, here are some of the measures that we have implemented:

- Temperature screening, travel declarations, contact tracing.
- Members who are unwell (fever, cough and other respiratory illness symptoms) or do not clear the declaration will be asked to go home.
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing of meeting places. Church premises to be vacated by 2pm on Sundays to facilitate this.
- Tithes and offering may be dropped into an offering box instead of the usual bags.
- Holy Communion elements to be passed directly to worshippers.
- Hymnals have been kept and projection to be used instead.
- 8am Traditional Service to be relocated to the school hall to provide greater social distancing
- HOME campaign will be postponed till further notice. CGs will revert to the usual fortnightly meetings
- Breakfast fellowship and refreshments to be suspended. Congregation is encouraged to refrain from staying on for fellowship during this period.
- Tots Ministry at Activity Room 3 to be suspended. Toddlers may be brought to the hall.

Let us continue to exercise social responsibility by avoiding church if we are unwell, have recently travelled to China or have had close contact with persons with COVID-19. We are currently making arrangements for live streaming or a recording of our services to be made available, especially for those of us who have been asked to stay home. There have been licensing issues but we hope to resolve them soon.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

As individuals, we may have differing views or concerns regarding the medical situation. May I encourage all of us to remain hopeful in the Lord and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we respond to the situation at hand. It is also a good time to intentionally spend time in His presence and Word.

Our hope in the Lord should not remain only with us. At a time like this, our Christian witness to the world is ever more crucial. My prayer is that our response to colleagues, friends and family will be a great testimony of our peace in God. I also want to take the opportunity to honor, affirm and pray for medical professionals at the frontline, especially those in our congregation.

So Christalite, arise and go forth in faith. May we find encouragement in the words found in Joshua 1:9, ***“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*** Let us hold unswervingly to the faith we profess in, for surely our God is above the virus and will continue to sustain us through this crisis.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Shaun.