



March 14, 2020

§ RE: COVID-19 — Coronavirus Update

Church of Champions Family,

We are keeping informed about the Coronavirus and are aware of the latest information for our communities, schools, churches, etc. We will continue to be diligent about new communication, we will continue to inform you and will make decisions fluidly as this is an ever-evolving situation. With that in mind, we'd love to share with you some of what we've been thinking and what precautionary measures we've been taking and plan to continue to take.

Our biggest focus throughout all of this is FAITH. Yes, there are real steps we need to take, and as a church we have already been ahead of the curve. But more importantly, we feel strongly that FAITH is what will conquer fear. FAITH and HOPE will be the answer for the hearts of many in our world. We believe that the church is the hope of the world, and that during moments of dismay and confusion it's God's people who carry His heart and His wisdom for the world. We see the incredible opportunity for souls to be saved, and for the church to unite during seasons like this. We know that a church united can do far more good for mankind than a country divided ever has!

Secondly, be careful where you find information about the Coronavirus. Media (TV, online, FB, etc.) gets paid by viewership and clicks on news blurbs. They'll create online "news" titles that drive fear and promote other agendas. And so many people have an opinion but aren't using facts or logic. We all should know by now that social media gives a platform to "alarmists/experts" that will stir up fear because they get attention. Skip their material entirely and be wise in using your own social media to build hope as we walk through this season together.

When you do go looking for information, get it from the most reliable sources. In the instance of the Coronavirus, look to your local Health Departments and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for the most unbiased and helpful information.

What does all of this mean for the Church of Champions?

Out of an abundance of caution we are removing certain typical church experiences from our normal gatherings. This includes not serving any "home-made" foods or desserts in our Coffee Bar, Kitchen, or ChampKids City areas. We will be spending extra time sanitizing in between services and, it will also change how we distribute study notes, handouts, tithing and offering envelopes, and other materials. We ask for your cooperation and thank you for helping us continue to make God's house a place where people can come.

If you or anyone in your family, especially children, feel sick we ask that you'd not attend until you've recovered. The Health Department has recommended minimizing public gatherings to no more than 250 people, with adequate space in between attendees. Therefore, we are going to be prudent and accept



their wisdom. This Sunday, we're asking you to seat in a more separated seating arrangement than is usual, and we will be changing our flow of service to leave adequate time to clean and sanitize.

Another important reminder: We deeply appreciate your financial faithfulness through this season. Maybe you've already set up recurring giving at the Church of Champions and this isn't an issue. Great! If not, we're asking that you please go to www.champ.org and click on the "give now" link at the top right corner and follow the directions. From there, you'll be able to make your selected designation in the drop-down box to give. Our tithes and offering methods may change slightly on our campus but giving online is always the easiest way. If you'd like, you can also text the word GIVE to 281.305.0505. From there, you can set your online text to give up. Now, more than ever before, we have an opportunity to show ourselves

Also, practically speaking: wash your hands frequently, sneeze/cough into a tissue/napkin and throw it away and wash your hands immediately after. For those at a higher risk from COVID-19 extra precautions should be taken. Follow the advice of your healthcare provider and the CDC. This includes those over the age of 60, those with medical conditions like diabetes, heart/lung disease, those with weakened immune systems, or are pregnant. Anyone with any of these issues should stay home.

Finally, we have great relationships with the medical community locally and nationally and are asking at regular intervals for perspective so we can make the most informed decisions possible. We commit to trust God, to stand in the gap for His people, and to become the hope that our world so desperately needs. Let's be prayerful, prudent, and led by His Spirit as we navigate this ongoing challenge. For more information on COVID-19, go to dshs.state.tx.us/news/updates.shtm#coronavirus

For Scriptures to pray over your families and communities, we share the following: Deuteronomy 7:15, Jeremiah 29:11, Numbers 6:24-26, Exodus 14:14, Job 11:8, Romans 5:5, Psalm 91.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you by reminding you that we are the "light of the world," and our "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind." Therefore, in times of crisis we are our best when we practice leadership, not reactionship, when we embrace sacrifice, not selfishness, and when we gather wise counsel around us to check our natural instincts. As the children of God, we don't let fear drive us. We certainly should not let social media drive us. So, be informed, get accurate information, and above all else have FAITH!

We love you, and we're honored to be your pastors. We're praying for your health and continued blessings!

Sincerely,

Pastor Hutchins