



新加坡长老会伯特利堂
BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
12 Jalan Latch Singapore 359110 | Tel 63835700 | Fax 63835708



4th Apr 2020, Saturday

To: Pastors, EDC, worshippers of Bethel Presbyterian Church,

Dear brothers and sisters, shalom!

Were you expecting a letter from Bethel, concern for her latest developments? Are you getting used to reading about her recent progress? Or, with tons of information flying all over, are you becoming saturated and overloaded with news that you are beginning to feel tired and annoyed?

I believe, the recent pandemic has triggered many of us to understand ourselves better, especially with what we are concerned for. We are becoming keenly aware of the pace and rhythm of our surroundings, and correspondingly, we have become more adaptable. So, what are you concerned with?

Yesterday, PM Lee addressed to us the concept of “Circuit Breaker”. He is concerned with our health and our survival. This significant measure is aimed decisively at breaking the contagious chain of transmission in the community. Thus, only the essential services and critical financial activities will continue to operate. Most non-essential businesses will cease operation.¹ Bethel will uphold social responsibility by aligning with the recent advisory to close between 7th Apr to 4th May.

Bethel will not conduct live service to worship God, but continues with the existing modus operandi of recording and sending audio worship to our congregations. Even though the progress made by our Media Taskforce is optimistic, we cannot execute live streaming in church just yet. There will be no physical practise or meeting of any kind, except remotely. Despite the fact that church office is closed from 7th Apr, our staff continues work from home, and operation continues.

Do not go outdoors freely. Couples cannot date freely, birthdays no longer as happy and abuzz. As for marriages, we have received instructions from ROM. Marriage during the period of “Circuit Breaker” must be postponed. I imagine this to be a challenging test to the couple.

¹ <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/why-singapore-needs-a-coronavirus-circuit-breaker>, taken on 4th Apr 2020, 6:01pm.



Not too long ago, we have heard of a new cluster found in Lee Ah Mooi Nursing Home (LAMNH).² Any nursing home with more than 200 must be zoned, distancing the residents. Staff unwell should not come to work. Please remember All Saints Home (ASH), and its co-workers, staff, residents and their families in our prayers. In particular, a team of 4 ASH nurses will chip in to replace 20 of LAMNH staff who are currently quarantined.

It is, now, the period of Qing Ming Festival (清明节). Chinese families, young and old, will gather at the ancestral resting place to commemorate their forebears, and Christians are no different. To minimise the spread of Covid-19, from the 27th of Mar, Kong Meng San Temple has stopped all visitors from entering its premises to pay their respect.³ From 25th Mar till 26th Apr, all government-run columbarium (Mandai, Choa Chu Kang and Yishun) are closed on weekends and public holidays to the public.⁴ Responding positively to PM Lee's appeal of "Circuit Breaker", All Saints Memorial Chapel will close its compound to the public. Funerals can be held and installation of urns can be conducted by adhering strictly to measures provided.

Dear brothers and sisters, apart from buying essential items and attending to essential matters as listed by the government, please do not go out unnecessarily. I like the 3rd reason for going out, and that is to exercise. One can imagine living at and working from home, sitting long hours, tit-bits and beverage all within arm's length are formula for disaster! Gaining weight is small matter, as compared to the detrimental impact it has on one's health! Go, go and exercise, go to an open ground and exercise! Taking in fresh air is a motivation to, temporarily, get out of the house.

Every new day of our lives are new breath from our Lord. We need to accept new norms, and this way we will lead an exciting life. I had no idea how to use Zoom for meeting, but now, I have met our co-workers several times. I did not like the idea of spending too much time reading the latest updates from my mobile phone, but now, I cannot take it off my sight. I have always enjoyed the tranquillity and comfort of my

² <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/covid19-coronavirus-lee-ah-mooi-nursing-home-cluster-12601248>, taken on 4th Apr 2020, 6:03pm.

³ <https://www.facebook.com/kmspks/>, taken on 4th Apr 2020, 6:06pm.

⁴ <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/covid-19-all-govt-run-columbaria-be-closed-weekends-public-holidays-until-april-26>, taken on 4th Apr 2020, 6:09pm.



office room to prepare my sermon, but now, I must prepare it at home. I believe your experience will be so much more exhilarating!

Dear brothers and sisters, every day is renewing, our lives are renewing, our minds are renewing. In *Romans*, Paul reminds us, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2) Paul highlights the faith distributed and gifts given to each of us, and provides us a list of teaching,

“6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

In this time of Covid pandemic, interjected with “Circuit Breaker”, now having read the scripture above, so, what are you concerned with? May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Humbly yours,

Rev Lim Tau Wei