



From the Pastor's Heart

A CALL TO COME UP HIGHER?



Dear Saints and Friends,
With grateful hearts to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Joy and I send you the warmest greetings in Jesus' name. We are happy to report that God is healing those of our members infected with COVID-19. Thank you, Jesus! We must continue to pray for those still hospitalized that their faith does not fail, and that God gives everyone a speedy recovery.

The ongoing pandemic and ensuing physical distancing continue to challenge many of us in diverse ways. Many of us are discovering/rediscovers our strengths and weaknesses and that of others too. This is a pivotal place to be. Pivotal because our perception of and responses to these challenges and discoveries will demonstrate our personal and spiritual maturity. Spiritually, they force us to honestly answer this question, "Am I a Romans 8:28 proponent"? *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"* (Romans 8:28).

Christian practitioners do have experiences that test our faith in God and His word. It is easy to say, "I have faith!" But the real proof lies in our responses during faith tests such as the current global health and financial crises. While there are many unanswered questions and unending speculations regarding the origin and possible covert purpose for this COVID-19 virus, I ask us to consider one profound possibility.

Is God giving His Church-Bride an opportunity to reassess her priorities—to not be so entangled with the "affairs of life" but to focus on being wedding ready? Does He want the Church to be present in our homes and our homes present in the Church? "The home and the temple, powerful duet!"

I strongly encourage you, my brothers, sisters, and unsaved friends, to take this time of "quietness" to listen to our Heavenly Father's call. He is calling us to come up higher. David, in Psalms 27:8, submissively said, *"When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek."* Let us put our lives and our homes back in alignment under God. We do not have to be afraid of COVID-19 when we can assuredly say, "With my soul, it is well!"

Finally, I use this platform to thank our leadership body, ministry workers and membership-at-large for doing your part to continue the Church's mission of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ. The skeleton crew of our digital services team continues to do an effective job in producing our virtual services. Please join me in thanking them. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I also thank you for continuing to demonstrate good stewardship in your giving. If you are experiencing financial constraints due to job loss or reduction in work hours, we are praying and trusting God with you to supply your needs.

Please be reminded that resources are currently available from a multiplicity of public service agencies and non-profit entities. Kindly click this link for more information: <https://www.allnationsapostolic.org/covid-19-support-resources/>. If you need further assistance, pastoral counsel, or desire to commit your life to Jesus Christ, kindly call the office at (718) 657-7699, Mondays through Fridays, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Let's continue to obey 2 Chronicles 7:14, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

Prayerfully yours,

Devon D. Dawson
Senior Pastor