



# COVID-19 PASTORAL RESPONSE KIT

03/18/2020

## FULFILLING OUR DIVINE PURPOSE IN TIMES OF NEED - PART II

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS

**We believe there are two basic questions that can help focus pastors and church leadership in times of societal need:**

**1). Internal Focus** – How can we best meet the needs of the household of faith?

**2). External Focus** – How can we best meet the needs of those outside the household of faith and fulfill the obligation of furthering the Gospel and making disciples?

#### **Suggestions for Meeting the Internal Needs Focus:**

**1). Establish some type of continual personal communication with your people:**

- a.** Consider a short video pastoral message of hope and challenge
- b.** Consider providing updated information about the latest govt recommendations, etc.
- c.** Think “Connectivity and Communication”
- d.** Think creatively in how to best use technology to communicate

**2). Develop or promote online giving:**

- a.** Consider challenging your people to increase their tithing during this time to help the altered ministry and to more effectively minister within and without the church family.

**3). Consider identifying the widows, elderly or immune-compromised church family for special need assistance:**

- a.** Match a church member or deacon with each identified person to ensure their safety, pickup and delivery of food or other items, etc.

**4). Consider a more fervent prayer time and focused prayer:**

- a.** Ask God to stop the spread of the virus!
- b.** Ask God to heal those who are already infected.
- c.** Ask God to protect those who are at risk.
- d.** Ask God to give our leaders wisdom.
- e.** Ask God to protect our medical and emergency personnel
- f.** Ask God to give us opportunities to minister to people.

## **Suggestions for Meeting the External Needs Focus:**

- 1). Recognize the unique differences between ministries and look for your unique potential.**
  
- 2). Consider identifying elderly in the community who could be helped by your church (a 'visiting angel idea').**
  - a.** Consider this as a parallel ministry to that within the church.
  
- 3). Consider opening up your church if in an urban setting for the serving of food to children or families that might be impacted by school closings, etc.**

**4). Consider a card ministry for people who are shut-ins.**

**5). Consider reaching out to first responders or health care workers who may be spending extensive hours on the job.**

**6). Consider opening your church for prayer and counseling.**

**7). When buying food, consider buying some additional food or for the church pantry or food bank.**

