

## CityLight South Church Coronavirus Update

17 March 2020



Dear CityLight South Church family,

What an amazing morning we had together on Sunday to celebrate the launch of not only our gatherings but also our presence in the Christies Beach community. Not only did we have people who joined us from each of our sister churches in the CityLight family, we also connected with dozens of men, women, and entire families from the southern area. We are so encouraged by what God is building for His glory through your faithful witness, generous giving, and bold prayers.

As I'm sure you're aware, the current situation in our community regarding the spread of coronavirus and COVID-19 has caused a large amount of angst and uncertainty. Some of the measures put in place by government and community leaders to slow down the spread of the disease have no doubt greatly affected each of you. As your elders, we have been prayerfully considering what steps we can take as a church to join the wider effort and thus fulfil Jesus' command to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

As of today, the government is continuing to deliberate the best course of action to limit the spread of disease. Public gatherings have been restricted to 500 people or less, and most are expecting those restrictions to be significantly tightened in the coming days. We believe that God has put these men and women in places of influence for the common good (see Romans 13:1-7), and our desire is to follow their lead in accordance with Scripture.

Based on government and expert opinion, along with our hearts' desire to love one another and love our neighbours for the glory of God—**we have made the difficult decision to suspend our in-person Sunday gatherings until further notice.**

We are working now toward **gathering together online starting this Sunday March 22 at 10:00am.** We will keep you updated through our communication channels as well as through your Discipleship Group leaders how we plan to stay connected. Our plan is that **all of our DGs will continue meeting** midweek during this time. Your leaders will let you know whether it is best for those meetings to happen using technology rather than in person. If you haven't yet joined a DG, we'll be in touch to help you connect in.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE DAYS AHEAD

**If you are feeling unwell** (fever, coughing, shortness of breath)

Please seek medical advice and practice the recommended self-isolation. Please also reach out to us so that we can pray with you and help with any needs. Be sure to let us know about any other pastoral and practical needs in your circles.

### **Pray**

Each of us needs to make space to remember that neither sickness nor social distancing will ever separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38-39). Pray for our neighbours,

especially those who are most vulnerable to becoming sick, that God's grace would both protect them and draw their eyes to Jesus.

### **Gather (in homes and online)**

Even though we need to restrict face to face gathering during this time, we have new opportunities to stay connected with one another. Please make the Sunday online gathering a priority along with your weekly DG. Your elders and DG leaders will make every effort to reach out to you regularly to listen and pray with you.

### **Grow**

Our neighbours not only need us to join the effort to slow the spread of disease in our community, they need to know the reason for the hope that we have (1 Peter 3:15). The more we fix our eyes on the beauty of Jesus and His grace, the more we will be grow to have the same hope that He did. Imagine having the chance to share this hope with those around us who are more uncertain and afraid of death than ever before.

### **Give & Go**

Christians around the world today, along with those who have gone before us have endured persecution, wars, famines, and plagues with joy. In those seasons the light of Christ was not extinguished, but rather became a beacon of hope in the darkness. We ask that you prayerfully consider ways to continue being generous with your time and resources in the days ahead. Many in our church family and wider community will be impacted financially and emotionally. Let's be looking for ways to go with Gospel hope to meet the needs of others—bearing one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

Let me close with Paul's words in Romans 15, verses 2 and 13:

***Each one of us is to please his neighbour for his good, to build him up.... Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

May each of you behold Jesus this week, and then become even brighter billboards of hope—for His glory and the joy of our neighbours.

In His grace,

**Tyler and Tyson**

Elders, CityLight South Church

To read the latest government advice, click here:

- (On public gatherings) <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-public-gatherings-and-visits-to-vulnerable-groups>
- (General information on COVID-19) <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19>