

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Christ Holy Sanctified Church of America, Inc.



Eighth in Succession

April 2, 2020

Before the COVID-19 virus began to overtake the world like a catastrophic wave a few days ago, the reality of where we are right now is something many of us would think is a script for a television series or film. From social-distancing (a future new entry in Webster's Dictionary) to "Safer at Home" to wearing masks, and from all indications, it will get worse – depending who you choose to align with. Some in the body of Christ have even become divided by not adhering to the orders of their local and state authorities and holding services or other gatherings. This is disturbing.

While I have not been aware of any of our pastors and leaders within our organization violating orders or directives, I pray that we are the best examples of following the law because these orders are not against a single group. They apply to all businesses – to all individuals. Not just to houses of worship. As each area of the country has different directives, the penalty for violating these temporary orders are steep; \$5,000, \$7,000, and more, and could result in jail-time, loss of non-profit status, utilities being shut-off, and the stigma of acting "above the law." As people of God, we do not want to bring a reproach on the body of Christ, and as we admonish those who follow us, let us "practice what we preach". I whole heartedly agree and stand with so many other wonderful leaders of great organizations across this nation, large and small, in reminding you to adhere to the orders/directives of those who have the rule over us.

Regarding "gloom and doom" so called prophecies and revelations many propagate during times like this, I do not believe that God is punishing "the church" or that the church is somehow responsible for what is going on. If God wants to punish His people or teach them a lesson (for whatever reason), He's smart and powerful enough to know who each of us are and He could just target us and not anyone else. I believe this is an opportunity for the people of God to show the world that, when God's people pray, God hears His people and will move Heaven and Earth to answer their prayers. Why? Because God loves us and is more powerful than any sickness, wickedness, disease, terror, and Satan. So, let us continue to pray and have faith in God. He is going to see us through this. And do know that this is a great time for our lights to shine and draw those in darkness to Jesus Christ. Remember, "Social-distancing" is not "Spiritual-distancing." God is with us.

Finally, be encouraged by the words of the Apostle Paul: "*And we know,*" (I could stop right there) "that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to HIS purpose" (Romans 8:28, NKJV). Since God's people are righteous and holy, He is going to take care of us and those around us.

Because of Calvary,

Bishop Craig E. Brown
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle,
Christ Holy Sanctified Church