



Thursday, March 19th 2020

Covid-19 Update #2

Dear Church Family,

This week, with the unfolding situation of the Coronavirus pandemic, you have been constantly in my thoughts and prayers. I'm sure you agree the reality of the social distancing being implemented across our own nation in increasing measures, is a bit surreal. As I have been talking to the Lord, I have been reminded once again, that it is Jesus who has banded us together as a united spiritual family. As your Lead Pastor (Senior Minister) at LifeSource Church, I am writing to update you with some important information:

Since my letter to you last week, the situation has changed significantly. Yesterday morning our Prime Minister and Australia's Chief Medical Officer spoke to the latest measures being introduced. From yesterday, gatherings of more than 100 people indoors are to cease. Gatherings of more than 500 outdoors will continue to be banned.

By practicing further social distancing measures, the aim is to help the whole of Australia flatten the contamination curve (and reduce the risk to vulnerable people). We have the best public health officials who are authorised to guide and advise our Australian and State / Territory governments. They are world experts in their fields of public health. I have every confidence in our Prime Minister as he acts on the medical advice given and makes decisions for the wellbeing of all Australians.

Our Pastoral Leadership Team (which includes myself and Pastors Rodney Bortolin, Jamie King, James Brown, Theresa Mataora and Maika Ravitu) met this morning to continue planning for various contingencies. The U.S.A and some European nations have now moved to limit the size of group gatherings, to no more than 10 or so. If further requirements are implemented in the coming days (and possibly months) we are wanting to be prepared for changing circumstances by adapting how we function and operate as a local church family.

I will now share with you some of the immediate changes our team endorsed and will be actioning from today:

1. Implementing Control Measures for our Sunday Services

We have decided for the time being that we will continue to hold our two (2) morning services until such a time as we cannot. To manage this we will need to implement some control measures so we do not breach the measures put in place by our governments, in particular the limit of 100 people in a building. The following points will be implemented beginning this Sunday:

- If you are over the age of sixty (60) **and** have a chronic illness that compromises your immune system, or you fall into the at risk categories based on the information from www.health.gov.au we are asking that you take the advice from the health professionals and socially isolate by not attending the weekly church services until this threat passes. The people most vulnerable and at risk if they catch Coronavirus are;
 - People with compromised immune systems (such as people who have cancer)
 - Elderly people
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (as they have higher rates of chronic illness)
 - People with chronic medical conditions
 - People in residential settings
 - People in detention facilities



If you are in that vulnerable group, you need to stay home wherever possible, and be safe.

If you need help in accessing groceries, or other essentials, or have a specific prayer or practical need, please let us know by emailing jamie@lifesourcechurch.org.au or office@lifesourcechurch.org.au or by calling our LSC Reception on 69649953.

- **Live Streaming:** To be able to manage this for this week, until we implement a better way, we will begin hosting a Live Stream of our 10:30am service for people who need to stay at home due to quarantining or wise measures around social isolation. This will be using the Facebook Platform for now. Our intention would be to see a team of people work toward a better solution here, an idea would be using an online church platform. I ask that when you log on to watch our service that you comment and let the team know you are watching.
- **100 Person Limit:** To assist us in managing the 100 person maximum in a building limit I want to ask you to email jamie@lifesourcechurch.org.au and advise which service you will commit to over the next season. Usually our 8:30am service has room for people to be in attendance, and if possible I ask that some of you, without children in a ministry program, would be open to attending this service to free up space in our 10:30am service. **Please note: We will be monitoring how many people arrive before each service. When we reach capacity of around 90 people, we will have to lock the door so we do not breach the law. We also want to keep some space for people who in this time of despair to encounter hope. We do not want to turn away a seeker! We will have a pastor outside to discuss with people who may arrive late and offer prayer support. Please church, be open to the suggestion to come back for our 10:30am service. This is a legal requirement and we do not want to dishonour our governing authorities at this time.**
- **GROW GROUPS:** The nature of a crisis like this, highlights the vital importance upon our GROW Groups and Ps James and Amy Brown who coordinate this ministry. We have decided, that due to the fact that the decision could be made that all gatherings may be shut down, that we will be focussing a lot on our GROW Groups. We believe that for the Church to remain in Community that this will be best facilitated through our GROW Groups. We will be asking our GROW Hosts to consider hosting the 10:30am service from their homes. This way you will be able to participate in corporate worship, take communion together, watch the message and pray for one another, and the church will have some more room for others who are not yet part of a GROW GROUP or as suggested, for visitors. Ps James will be in contact with all the Hosts who may be able to do so very soon. There will also be a GROW Group Host meeting this Sunday at 3:30pm where we will be able to update more. If you want to know more about hosting a small group like this, I encourage you to be at the meeting at 3:30pm at church on Sunday.
- **Children's Ministry:** Much discussion was had around our children. We do not want to take the easy road here because our children mean so much to us. Ps Theresa has assured us that she will be implementing careful hygiene strategies for our kids. Therefore, we have decided that we will keep this ministry open to serve our kids and facilitate Kingdom Culture in their lives. Be aware that while we will make every effort to teach the children around hygiene, and reinforcing what they are hearing from home and school, we will also be monitoring this and may have to make a call in the future around the viability of the program through these measures.
- **Ushers:** Please take good care of our Ushers. They do a fantastic job but we will be asking a little more from them and our Pastors. To mitigate the pressures of social distancing, our teams will have to have the freedom



to politely and lovingly ask you to move along or move to a different seat etc. Please remember we are doing this for your good, and I ask you to politely oblige and offer a warm and loving smile.

- **Mission's Kiosk:** For the time being we have decided to suspend our Mission's Kiosk. Our team do a wonderful job but I don't feel to add extra layers of protocol on them for everyone's safety. I will discuss more with Natalia as time unfolds and we will implement a strategy here for sure. We will though keep our LifeSource Café open for our fellowship times. I will be asking everyone at the end of our services to move directly outside and gradually come in if you want to order from the Café.
 - **Hygiene:** As per my previous letter I want to highlight our measures to ensure that everyone remains safe over this time. As with any other flu season we need to practice good hygiene and hand care. Please remember to;
 - Wash your hands thoroughly regularly.
 - Use the hand sanitiser around the church/school
 - Refrain from touching, this means no shaking hands, high fives, hugs and kisses. (I am sorry ☹️)
 - Keep a good distance from people. The recommended distance is 1.5m. We will assist people in the auditorium for services.
 - If you cough or sneeze, please into your elbow. Wash your hands or sanitise if you use a tissue or sneeze into your hands.
 - We will implement disposable cups for tea and coffee over this time.
 - **If you or your child has cold or flu like symptoms, please refrain from attending services and the school/church office during the week.** Also, be sure to let Ps Jamie know via email or text so we are aware and can pray for you.
 - We need people that will be able to assist with wiping down benches and cleaning toilets between meetings. Please advise Graham Bollington via text message to 0428623753 if you are able to assist
2. **As your Lead Pastor, I will be ministering at least for this week from the Word in relation to navigating this time and living in the hope and faith Jesus supplies.** This is because I want to share with you and reassure you of God's goodness and total trustworthiness, in leading us through this difficult time. We will continue our normal ministry rosters into the foreseeable future or until instruction comes from our Pastoral Leadership Team and Oversight. Please make sure all rosters are in to me ASAP.
 3. **I encourage you to continue to look out for one another and find ways to care for your neighbours.** During the coming days, the Holy Spirit will be at work to prompt us to help people who have relational or practical needs. Let's show the love of Christ and get creative in outshining the darkness and serving others with simple acts of care and kindness, while also adhering to the protective measures being put in place.
 4. **Keep saying 'yes' to relational connection.** While we feel the reality of physical distance for a time, there are so many tools at our disposal to stay in touch: Facetime, social media, emails, Zoom, What's App calls, text messages, phone calls (even snail mail) are ways we can check-in with one another, our loved ones and others around us.
 5. **As your Pastor who cares for you deeply, please hear me on what I have to say next:**
Be vigilant about choosing the right people to listen to about this pandemic - both online and through the media.

Proverbs 14:15 (Msg)

"The gullible believe anything they're told but the prudent sift and weigh every word."



It's important not to give in to fear, nor to be overly anxious but to get the facts so we can respond calmly and with common sense, as we put our trust in Jesus. As a good citizen please be committed to following the instructions of our Prime Minister for your own safety and for the wellbeing of others. Be aware that the Australian department of health is regularly being updated with helpful information and I encourage you to check out the following pages for updates:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) health alerts](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) resources for the community, health professionals and industry](#)

Be assured, this pandemic will pass. It's true that we don't know exactly when this will be. However, because we are not currently immune to this virus as we are to other flu-like viruses, and because there is no vaccination in place yet, we must face the facts, use wisdom and prioritise our health and the safety of others.

Proverbs 14:8 (LB)

"The wise man looks ahead. The foolish person attempts to fool himself and won't face the FACTS."

6. If you aren't already doing do, please make the move to giving online.

I am really thankful that most of our weekly giving happens this way. I.e. 90% of our income occurs through electronic giving. If you are a regular financial contributor, and you usually give in person, could you please make the shift to electronic giving and continue to partner with us as we outwork the budget that has been set for 2020. Please see details for commencing online giving below:

BSB: 012657

ACC NO: 214956868

(REF: TITHES - YOUR NAME)

Contact Ps Jamie by phone or email if you need more info on this: 0421 781 098 / jamie@lifesourcechurch.org.au

7. Jesus is not shocked by what is taking place and our hope is in Him.

In the midst of a really difficult season, I sense the Lord is going to open up many amazing opportunities for His Church to minister in practical and selfless ways. Yes, it means we are going to need to innovate and keep in step with His Spirit. But we are still going forward in faith, and I have every confidence in our whole team to adapt and adjust to the changing landscape. Let's pray the Gospel goes forth across Griffith, our State, our Nation and the world and reaches many thousands of people who need Jesus.

As our world goes through a real shaking at this time we have been given the indestructible promises of Jesus and the reality of His presence and power with us, always:

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that can never be shaken, let us be thankful and worship God with reverence and awe..." Hebrews 12:28 (NIV)

I will be in touch again after the weekend with practical details about our Weekend Church Services that are happening online as well as our weekly GROW Groups.

LifeSource Church



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You are constantly in our prayers,

Yours in the faith,

Ps Steve Rand

Senior Minister
LifeSource Church Inc.

