

Sixth Pastoral Letter to the Wesley Church Family **on the Covid-19 Situation (03 Apr 2020)**

(By Rev Stanley Chua, Pastor-in-Charge)



Dear Friends and Members of the Wesley family,

Our Prime Minister has gone on air again to address our nation just hours ago with added enhanced measures to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. These newly enhanced measures are needed as we are still seeing a rising number of people being infected by the virus in Singapore.

I am writing this pastoral letter to keep all of you updated and informed of what our Church is doing in the light of these additional enhanced measures. To begin, I need to assure all of you that we have complied with all the advisory measures that have been mandated by our government (e.g. staff working from home, suspension of all church worship services and activities, including physical meetings, etc.). With the recently announced additional enhanced measures, there will be four immediate things that we need to implement for our Church:

1. Temporary Closure of Church Office

The Church office will be closed from 7 Apr (next Tuesday) till 4 May to comply with the new advisory to close non-essential businesses and workplaces. Members who need to contact our Church can still continue to do so. Our staff on duty will be available to answer phone calls during office hours.

2. Suspension of all Pastoral Visitations

All pastoral visitations will be suspended, except for bereavements and life-threatening situations, till 4 May 2020. This is to comply with the advisory to stay home as much as possible as well as to avoid socialising with others beyond our own household.

3. Suspension of Wesley Counselling Services

Face-to-face counselling sessions in church will be suspended. Sessions will be conducted through tele-conferencing only.

4. Continuation of Weekly Weekend Online Worship Services

We encourage all Wesleyans and friends to continue to join us in our weekend online worship services. Please be reminded to observe the necessary guidelines for our online worship services that I have given to all of you in my last pastoral letter so that our online worship to God will be intentional and reverent.

As I end my letter, may I encourage all of us to continue to support our government's efforts by complying with all the advisory measures that they have mandated and implemented. Let us do this out of obedience to God's Word that reminds us in Romans 13:1(NIV) that we are to "...be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." We also do it out of obedience to the second greatest commandment that our Lord Jesus has given to

us and that is, to love our neighbour (Mark 12:31). The most loving thing that you and I can do for all our neighbours in Singapore is to play our part in complying with all the advisory measures to stop the spread of this Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, as we are not able to meet each other physically, may I encourage all of us to continue to keep in touch with one another through social media and find opportunities to encourage one another. In the Gospel of John, Jesus warned that “In this world you will have trouble.” He then followed with a much-needed encouragement “But take heart! I have overcome the world.” – John 16:33 (NIV).

We live in a broken world where everything calls us toward selfishness and despair. Sin steals joy, our bodies break down, our plans falter, our dreams die, our resolves weaken, our perspective dims. We are promised suffering (1 Peter 4:12), persecution (John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:12), and trials of various kinds (James 1:2-3). When encouragement is absent from the life of a church, people will feel unloved, useless, and forgotten. God knows His people need grace-filled reminders, and that is the reason why He calls us to encourage each other every day until His Son returns (Hebrew 3:13). So, let us obey God’s Word and encourage each other because He knows we need it.

To God be the glory! Amen!

Yours-in-Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley Chua', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Stanley Chua

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