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**All Assemblies  
The Church of Pentecost  
Ghana**

*Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? <sup>23</sup> Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all." Ex. 5:22-23 NIV*

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, I on behalf of the Executive Council admonish all members of the church not to be terrified with daily news of escalating figures. Let us be still and know that He is God. What is important is that at the end of all this, God will gain glory for His name as it was the case in Egypt; and His Church will come out stronger.

**1. Extension of Lockdown and Support System for the Needy**

The world is no stranger to plagues and epidemics. There have been not less than 10 major pandemics that have claimed millions of lives recorded in history. For example;

- a. The Antonine Plague or the Plague of Galen which occurred in the second century 165AD in the early years of the Church is said to have claimed 5 million lives.
- b. The Black Death caused by the Bubonic Plague which occurred between 1346 - 1353 AD is recorded to have taken between 75-200 million lives. This same Bubonic Plague had earlier hit the then world in 541-542 AD and had claimed about 25 million lives.
- c. And quite recently, the Spanish Flu which occurred between 1918 and 1920 is recorded to have infected over a third of the world's population and claimed the lives of about 20 – 50 million people.

In all these plagues, it has been established by both Christian and non-Christian accounts that the church's posture made such a strong impression on the Roman society and the then world; thus these plagues though devastating, turned out to be a major catalysts for the church's explosive growth in its early years.

The Christian response to plagues in the past as taught by the Bishops and Church leaders at that time begins with some of Jesus's most famous teachings: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Mt. 7:12); "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mk. 12:31); "Greater love has no man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends" (Jn. 15:13)." Put plainly, the Christian ethic in a time of plague as shown in history considers that our own life must always be regarded as less important than that of our neighbour (Philip. 2:3).

For example in 1527, the Bubonic Plague hit Wittenberg (Germany), a small town where Martin Luther was based. He was urged to flee the town to protect himself and the family considering how deadly the plague was. His Pastors also besieged him to make a pastoral statement on the plague regarding what they (pastors) should do. In response, he issued out a pastoral letter titled "Whether one may Flee a Deadly Plague" This is what he said:

*"We die at our posts. Christian doctors cannot abandon their hospitals, Christian governors cannot flee their districts, and Christian pastors cannot abandon their congregations. The plague does not dissolve our duties: It turns them to crosses, on which we must be prepared to die."*

Eventually Luther refused the calls to flee, rather, he stayed and ministered to the sick.

Flowing from the above, I encourage all our members serving as frontline workers in the fight against the pandemic to be selfless in offering their services in this critical time of the world's history; serving as agents of transformation. Our prayers are with them.

The extension of the lockdown in the Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi as part of government's measures to fight the pandemic will undoubtedly, have a toll on our church members, especially the poor and the vulnerable. I therefore encourage church leaders to continue to minister to the needy in the church as well as the community where possible. They are however admonished to do it discretely, with decency and proper supervision by the District Pastors and the Area Heads.

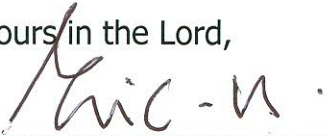
## **2. Extension of Ban on Public Gatherings**

As you may also be aware, the President has extended the initial one-month ban on public gatherings for a further period of two (2) weeks with effect from Monday, April 13, 2020. The Executive Council would like to once again direct full compliance with the President's Executive order and again reaffirm the decisions taken on the interim reorganization of church activities. These are:

1. Intensify intercessory prayers at individual and family levels.
2. Take daily personal and family devotions serious
3. Periodically organise family and friends meetings in homes to pray and share fellowship where practicable.
4. Encourage cell and small group level fellowships where practicable.
5. In all meetings, let us keep to the safety and preventive measures announced in my previous circulars.

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, our good God is still with us.

Yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric-N". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**ERIC NYAMEKYE (APS.)**  
**CHAIRMAN**

cc: The General Secretary, COP, HQ, Accra  
The IMD, COP HQ, Accra