

THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

Founder: Rev. James McKeown

Office of the Chairman

P. O. Box 2194

Accra - Ghana

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Tel/Fax: 233-302-772193

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**All Assemblies
The Church of Pentecost
Worldwide**

"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him." 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 NIV

1. COVID-19

Theories concerning COVID-19 are many and varied. Some are weird, while others are thought-provoking, prompting discerning hearts to rethink about our world and the future of Christianity. Some people even feel our world has changed forever. But brothers and sisters in the Lord, God has something to say:

The LORD, who rules and protects Israel, the LORD Almighty, has this to say: "I am the first, the last, the only God; there is no other god but me. Could anyone else have done what I did? Who could have predicted all that would happen from the very beginning to the end of time? Do not be afraid, my people! You know that from ancient times until now I have predicted all that would happen, and you are my witnesses. Is there any other god? Is there some powerful god I never heard of?" Isaiah 44:6-8 GNB

The maker of the universe is our God and nothing surprises Him. The above scripture reminds us that God is in firm control of His creation. If what is happening is in His plan, so be it. If what is going on is not in His plan, then as we continue in prayer, God will avert whatever power or force behind this COVID-19.

Do not be terrified, do not fear. God is with us – He remains our refuge and fortress, our ever present help in times like this. Let us rather take the opportunity to deepen our Christian lives, have a closer intimacy with Jesus Christ, to know Him more as a personal Saviour and Lord.

Also, let us take the space we have now to strengthen our family lives. Above all, let us prepare for the great harvest of souls that is anticipated when this coronavirus pandemic is over, as we endeavour to possess the nations.

2. Home Churches

We may not be meeting in the masses as we are used to because of the ban on mass gathering, but let us continue to be a glorious church. The Early Church met in homes yet they enjoyed the favour of all. They held on to the apostles' teachings, fellowship and prayer. May we use the media to communicate with one another, fellowship with one another, pray for one another and share the gospel with the world.

3. Meeting the needs of the needy

One thing the early church also did, which we need to strengthen in this difficult time is that:

"... they had everything in common, they sold property and possessions to anyone who had need" Acts 2: 44-45 NIV

"... There were no needy persons among them..." Acts 4:34 NIV

In respect to the above scriptures, I encourage church leaders to see how best to meet the needs of the needy amongst you in this trying time, but do it discretely, with decency and proper supervision by the District Pastors and the National/Area Heads.

4. Easter Celebration

This year's Easter celebration could not be held as we used to in the past years because of the restriction imposed on mass gatherings in most parts of the world. We will certainly miss the celebration and public proclamation of the Gospel and the festivities that usually accompanied this period. But brothers and sisters, you are the testimonies and celebration of what Jesus did on the cross over 2000 years ago - sinners saved by grace. When God looks down on earth, He celebrates us and we should in turn thank Him and celebrate the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ in the space we have. At family levels, celebrate Him; at cell levels, celebrate Him; together with friends, celebrate Him and at individual levels, celebrate Him. For our Lord Jesus Christ died that we might live (1 Thess. 5:9-10; Isaiah 53:5).

May the Lord be with you and keep you. Have a Blessed Easter Celebration. Amen!

Yours in the Lord,



ERIC NYAMEKYE (APS.)
CHAIRMAN

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