

New Nation Church International

News & Information

The church in the face of the global pandemic of COVID 19

As I write this letter, nearly every nation in the world has entered some form of governmentally imposed lock down in the face of the COVID 19 pandemic. Many people support the idea of temporarily suspending freedoms in order to potentially save lives and slow the spread of the virus. Many people are greatly concerned that giving up our freedom, even if the purpose is a valid one, sets a frightening precedent that should never be condoned.

I would say that no matter where you stand on the issues surrounding COVID 19 and government interventions, it can't be overlooked that fear is a major part of what is driving the decisions that are being made by governments and individuals. We witnessed hoarding of supplies out of fear. We witnessed Chinese people and others who are not Chinese, but look similar, being attacked out of fear. We witnessed very extreme laws and penalties enacted out of a fear of suffering and possibly death for some. We have witnessed so much fear this year so far that it is easy to get

overwhelmed by the spirit of fear that has run rampant throughout the earth. Those who study human behavior and brain chemistry have found that fear stimulates an area of the brain that sparks an anger response. You have likely heard about the 'fight or flight' response that fear evokes, which is about survival in the face of danger.

In the Book of Revelation, we read what the angel of God spoke to the angel of the church at Smyrna. Within these words in Chapter 2:10-11 we read this: *'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'*

This scripture helps us to see fear as a choice and not something that we must experience in the face of impending suffering. Reliance on our faith in Christ and His Spirit living inside of us is tested when we face

hardship. All people will face suffering and death at some point, but our faith informs us that this life is temporary while the life to come is eternal. For the faithful in Christ, that eternity is something we can look forward to, trusting that it is so much better than this fleeting and often painful existence.

We know that God has a purpose for us in this life and we should not seek to leave this life behind until God calls us to Him, but we also believe that He has something wonderful waiting for us in His house where Jesus has made ready our place.

The choice between fear of temporary suffering or the courage to trust faithfully in God and His promises is not easy, but it is the choice of faith by which we overcome. May your faith in Christ be enlarged in this time of testing.



- Apostle & Minister Todd Cataldo

Prayer Points

Acts 1:14a—These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer

- Pray the supernatural peace, protection, health and encouragement for all of God's people and especially those facing food insecurity and those who are key workers during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Pray for God's wisdom our ministers and all leaders around the world who are trying to navigate an incredibly difficult situation impacting the physical, mental, spiritual, and economic health and welfare of the people they are responsible to.
- Pray for refugees, displaced people and others who were already on the margins of society before this pandemic, that their plight is not forgotten in the face of the current crisis.
- Pray for provision to purchase land for New Nation Church, Juba and for plans for planting New Nation Church, Shrewsbury.
- Pray for many people to seek and find faith in God through Jesus Christ and be filled with the Spirit of God.



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New Nation Church of India

The portion of donations, tithes and offerings to New Nation Church International from the first quarter of 2020 that were sent to New Nation Church of India have been used to feed 92 people in rural areas of the Khammam District in the Telangana State of India. New Nation Church of India's National Director, Evangelist and Pastor Kanna Babu, assembled a team of ministers and volunteers from our congregations in the area to purchase and distribute 25kg bags of rice as well as fruit and vegetables for those who they identified as having the greatest need.

As the team listened to people's stories, they learned that most had not eaten for two or three days and had no idea when they would eat again.

The team was stopped and questioned by police who did not understand why they were giving food to poor people instead of keeping it for themselves, as is the norm in the region. They were told that they had been 'touched by a

spirit' by one police officer. By saying this, the policeman meant that they were demon possessed causing them to go insane. Pastor Kanna told the officer that they had indeed been 'touched by a Spirit', of course meaning the Holy Spirit of God.

Pastor Kanna was so moved by the needs of the people which were much greater than he was able to meet, that he took out a personal loan equivalent to \$1,600 so that he and his team could feed an additional 342 people. He believes that any consequences he may suffer for late repayment of the loan is worth any personal costs, including prison, in order to keep the most vulnerable people in the area from starving to death.

Care for those who are not family, particularly for the poor, is counter-cultural there and can result in verbal and physical attacks by radical Hindus and police. Pastor Kanna hopes to continue to share the compassion of Christ and provide food as funds allow.

The COVID 19 lock down in India has caused a ban on public gatherings, including church services. As result, tithes and offerings in the congregations that help provide income for our ministers and their families have stopped.

In order to feed his family, Pastor Kanna took up work as a farm laborer. Unfortunately, he was in a farm machine accident, making it impossible for him to continue to do farm labor until he fully recovers. Despite the struggles that he and his own family are facing, he continues to let the light of Jesus Christ shine through him and into the darkness that is so prevalent in his community and beyond.

Pray for Pastor Kanna and all of our ministers and church family in India in these difficult times. Pray that as they continue to bless people in the Name of Jesus Christ, more and more will receive the gospel message and enjoy partaking in the Bread of Life, who is Christ.



Pastor Kanna pictured far left above with people who have received food parcels which are below.



Pictured below, some of the team with some recipients of food parcels.



New Nation Church of South Sudan

In South Sudan, quarterly giving has helped to feed people in the capital city Juba, where New Nation Church of South Sudan's National Director, Apostle and Pastor Alex Sokiri is leading the re-establishment of our congregation there after years of civil war caused the closure of our Juba location. In addition to Pastor Alex himself, 5 other members of the congregation were forced to shelter in the church building due to travel restrictions in the first month of the lockdown. As you may be aware, our other 5 South Sudanese congregations and our nursery, primary and secondary schools fled their war torn nation and re-established themselves in refugee camps in Uganda. There, the number of congregations has grown to thirteen.

Prior to the outbreak of Corona virus and the resulting lockdown, the government of South Sudan passed new regulations requiring all churches to own the land that they meet on by July 1 of this year. Pastor Alex had only recently moved the church building from the original leased property which was sold shortly before the current cease-fire was signed, to a new leased property at the beginning of this year. He will move the building once again when we can purchase our own property and New Nation Church, Juba can continue to grow and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When people in most areas of the world read about raising money to purchase land in a capital city, we usually think that the cost will be so high that it is beyond our means to help enough to make a dent, but our fund raising goal is only \$2,000 to purchase a well located parcel of land in Juba. Imagine that!

Additionally, Pastor Alex and his team have used some of the funds to purchase 50 jerricans and establish hand washing stations in various neighborhoods of their city. They also taught proper hand washing techniques to the people in the neighborhoods where stations were installed. These are an important tool in the effort to combat the spread of COVID 19. Their goals is to set-up a total of 200 hand washing stations in the city to supplement what the government has provided. The additional stations will cost \$400.



Pictured above jerrican handwashing station in use.



Pictured above jerricans purchases to create hand washing stations. Pictured below, far right Pastor Alex and team.



New Nation Church of Uganda

As in many places around the world, New Nation Church of Uganda, local ministers Esther and Stephen have not been able to continue to hold services in our Kampala-Mutongo location due to their government's lockdown rules. Minister Stephen was required to return to his rural village on the northern outskirts of the city and it has been difficult for him to keep in contact from this isolated location. Minister Esther has been able to continue ministering through home visits in the Mutongo District of Kampala with proper social distancing, occasionally bring-

ing food, bottled water and other essential supplies to members of the church and others in need.

Minister Esther has continued to lead a Bible study in her home, but has had to greatly limit the number of people attending in order to meet safety guidelines for social distancing and maximum number of people allowed to gather.

Through this Bible study, Jackson Mulungi and his partner Sheeban who had been together for 4 years and have two children together (Dilan and Denise) came to faith in

Jesus Christ. Just over two weeks later, they realized that they were not honoring the Lord by not being married, so they had a very intimate wedding in Esther's home, where the local church meets. A simple child dedication service was also held for Dilan and Denise.

Quarterly giving to NNC Uganda has been used to help purchase food, clean bottled water, medicine and hygiene supplies for those in need in Kampala's Mutongo District and to help support our ministers in Uganda and their families.

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Volume 13 Issue 2, Spring



from left to right: Jackson, Dilan & Sheeban Mulungi, Minister Etheldreda (Esther) Yatuha holding Denise



Above Minister Esther assisted by her son Simon at the wedding of Jackson & Sheebah Mulungi

Below: Jack & Dilan's wedding rings



Below: photo by Daniel Catt of the River Severn flowing through the Town of Shrewsbury



Below: 'The Seed' a painting by Lois J Frazer-Saff gifted to New Nation Church International.



New Nation Church of the United Kingdom

New Nation Church International ministry couple Apostle Todd Cataldo and Minister Ruth Cataldo are at a pivotal point in their personal lives and in the plans to plant a new congregation of NNCI in Shrewsbury, as their time at Holy Trinity Church with St Julian, Belle Vue (HTBV), a Church of England parish church in the town of Shrewsbury, approaches its end on June 30th. As Todd's UK visa, income and housing were all tied to his position at HTBV, Todd applied for a new spouse visa with Ruth as his sponsor. Todd's visa was granted at the beginning of May, so he is able to search for new employment and a new home. That's a lot of big changes in a short time!

At the end of September 2019, Todd heard God say that New Nation Church, Shrewsbury had been conceived spiritually and in 9 months time the birth pangs of labor would begin for this new church plant. In times of prayer, Todd received some direction on steps to take in preparation for this. These steps include an increase in interchurch ministry, a new type of Bible study to be launched after Easter 2020 to be called a 'Seed Study' as a reference to Jesus comparing the word of God to a seed as found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke in the parable of the seed and the sower. And then

in July to hold interest meeting with those who may want to join with Todd and Ruth in planting NNC Shrewsbury with church services to begin in autumn 2020.

In the meantime, securing a location church services and other meetings and events and creating UK specific organizational documents in preparation for registering New Nation Church of the United Kingdom as a charity, obtaining insurance, various types of training for potential leaders, procuring equipment and supplies for hospitality, children's ministry, worship arts and many more aspects of church life are all important, costly and time consuming steps that are all key aspects of church planting. Accomplishing these things in the midst of a lot of personal life changes for Ruth and Todd is already daunting. Doing this all in the midst of a lock down while all meetings, including church services are off limits for an unknown period of time makes the plans for launching New Nation Church, Shrewsbury seem impossible, but as Jesus said; "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26b. Pray that what seems impossible will prove possible and declare the truth of God's word in Shrewsbury.

New Nation Church of the United States of America

New Nation Church International continues to be legally based in California despite the fact that there is no local congregation in the USA at this time. A portion of the administration of NNCI also continues to take place here.

Minister Willie Broach continues to serve in the youth and worship ministries at Sanctuary Ministries Church in Concord, California.



Left to right: Minister Ruth Cataldo, Minister Willie Broach and Ap. Todd Cataldo during a 2019 visit by Min. Wille to the United Kingdom

New Nation Church International originated when the church's founding apostles traveled on a mission trip to Kampala, Uganda in the summer of 2006. It was here where it was confirmed through a prophetic message of a Pastor Apollas, that Ap. Todd Cataldo was to start a church that would minister to the nations. Later that year organizational meetings began with interested people to create the vision, mission and purpose statements for NNCI. As these organizational meetings continued, the governance, by-laws and formation of a legally recognized non-profit church charity was formed and registered in Contra Costa County, California, USA. The first congregation of New Nation Church International was originally called New Nation Church of Central Contra Costa County, later changing its name to New Nation Church, Concord. That congregation held the first church service as a house church in February of 2008. The following month, the first NNCI church began in Kampala, Uganda and it too started as a house church.

Since NNCI's early beginnings there has been tremendous growth internationally. Partnerships and training of new ministers from various parts of the world have resulted in NNCI planting further congregations in South Sudan, Uganda, India and soon in the United Kingdom.

NNCI has experienced a great deal of change and growth since our original house churches in the USA and Uganda, and we anticipate continued growth through training up ministers and church planting around the globe in God's timing.

Opportunities to Bless through Giving

Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

As you consider giving to NNCI, following are the most pressing areas of need:

- Funds for loan repayment for the costs of feeding destitute people through NNC of India.
- Funds for NNC, Juba in South Sudan to complete the purchase of church land in the capital city.
- Funds for NNCI ministers around the globe whose incomes have diminished during the pandemic.
- Funds for South Sudanese refugees as food provision has decreased in the current crisis.
- Funds for church planting in the United Kingdom.
- Funds to continue to assist the people in the communities where our congregations are located.

Giving is easiest through the giving link on our website.

Thank you so much to each of our donors. Your donation in the midst of the COVID 19 global pandemic is especially timely, as people in many of the communities where our congregations and ministries are located have been facing grave challenges. Our congregations in India, South Sudan and areas of Uganda have been the hardest hit as food price increases have created famine level concerns about starvation in impoverished areas as a result of panic buying, price gouging and farmers facing higher costs of production as seed prices have increased astronomically and workers are scarce due to fears of contracting the virus.

New Nation Church International

Our Vision:

To see God unite His people of every nation, tribe and tongue to worship Him in spirit and truth in local congregations throughout the world.



Our Mission:

To make disciples of people of every nation, tribe and tongue; baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all that Jesus taught.



Our Purpose:

To love the Lord our God with all our heart, strength, mind and soul and to love other people as the Lord our God loves us.



Mailing Address:
280 Saint Joseph Street

Phone: 925-433-8357

E-mail:
info@newnationchurch.org

Website:
www.newnationchurch.org

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