



New Testament Church of God NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 | MAY 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP



To all my colleagues, members and friends of the New Testament Church of God, England and Wales and beyond. I pray that you are all keeping safe and well and continue to know the grace, love, and peace of God during this lockdown period caused by COVID-19. I trust you are finding the newsletter encouraging and informative. As previously stated, the purpose of the newsletter is to keep you updated from the National Office as well as sharing information from the Government and news from across our Churches.

Hats off to our Pastors

The reports that I am getting at the National Office suggests that Pastors and their leadership teams are doing a marvellous job in continuing to minister to the congregations and support the community during these difficult times using various technological means. I am greatly encouraged by this. Well done to all our pastors and their teams...keep up the good work!

National Office Staff

I am pleased to report that all National Office staff are doing well, most of us are working from home while others are furloughed.

Prayer

Unfortunately, several members and friends of the Church have died in this season. Others are hospitalised and many are self-isolating or shielding at home. We know for certain that this virus is no respecter of persons, it goes from "Kings house to alms house"...no one is exempt.

We must not forget to pray for these individuals and families. Speaking of prayer, I would like to encourage everyone to use some of our time during this lockdown period to intercede for world leaders asking God to give them wisdom as the battle against this Virus.

Encouragement

I want to encourage everyone to adhere to the Government guidelines. Stay alert. That way we stop the spread of the virus and save lives, including our own life.

Thinking of you

Be assured that my wife Joycelyne and I have you in our thoughts and prayers daily. As together we fight this battle, one thing is certain, is that God is on our side and that being the case, we will win in the end.

Please continue to keep safe and well.

Bishop Dr Donald Bolt



PSALM 121 : 1 - 8 KJV

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD,
which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is thy keeper: the
LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by
day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve thee
from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
The LORD shall preserve thy going out
and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore*

CHALLENGE FOR THE NHS

The former District Overseer / Pastor for NTCG Derby District, **Reverend Keith Channer** is undertaking a fantastic challenge for the NHS.



Rev Channer is planning on completing 60 press ups in 60 seconds to raise £2,000 for the health service.



While not being able to undertake his voluntary chaplaincy role at Burton's Queen's Hospital, Rev Channer is training for his challenge which he is completing on **Friday 26th June 2020**.

If you would like to donate to this fabulous cause via Just Giving™ or read more about Rev Channers challenge, go to one of the links below.

We know you can do it Bishop Channer!

To Donate: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/keith-channer

More Info: www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/burton/meet-retired-reverend-set-become-4105539



Bishop Tony Parry

Nothing New Under the Sun - God Remains in Control

Every generation at one level or another presupposes themselves to be more educated than the previous generation, more socially aware, more ethological active, more ethically biased, more modern in their thinking and outlook, more tolerant and equality grounded, more scientifically prepared. Such an over blown image of oneself is obviously flawed, as well as leading inflated egos, it can also be quite dangerous and lead to a sense of invincibility and over confidence in one's own abilities and problem-solving faculties.

If nothing else Covid-19 has knocked this generation off its equilibrium and placed front and centre, with all our sophistication and know how, we remain in the dark in so many areas such as this one.

King David's son Solomon, who succeeded him, made a profound statement found within the Wisdom Literature 'There is nothing new under the sun' Ecc 1:9 NIV. In fact, our world has had many pandemics before, in ancient days better known as plagues, for example the Bubonic Plague over the spans of some two centuries, killed approximately 26 percent of the then world population, when it re-emerged again in the 1300's it was described as the Black Death, and was responsible for the deaths of 20 million people in Europe alone. The turn of the 19th century saw the first of seven cholera pandemics and of course the 1918 Spanish Flu which resulted in 50 million deaths.

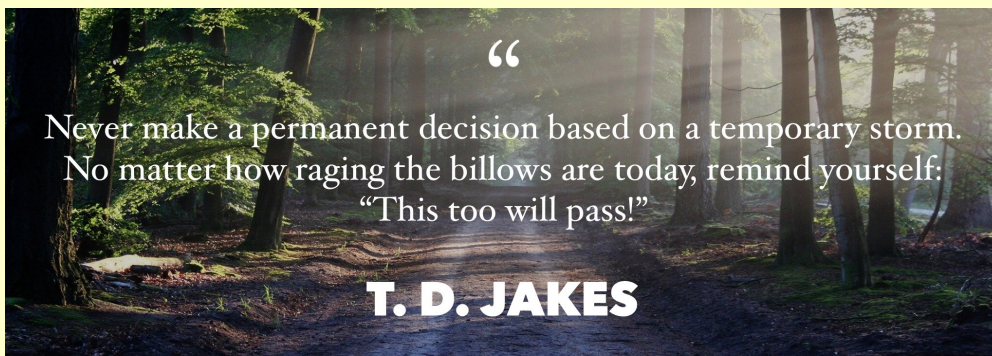


We are told that a pandemic is an epidemic of diseases that has spread over vast areas, i.e., regions, continents affecting significant numbers of people. The historians suggest that the earliest pandemic happened during the Peloponnesian War for 433BC, on this particular occasion the disease affected Libya, Ethiopia, Egypt and by the time it crossed over to Greece approximately 2/3 of the population of Athens died as a consequence. The suspected disease was that of typhoid.

Cyprian is known as an Early Church Father, the Bishop of Carthage in North Africa. He is less known for the plague that bore his name, i.e., the Cyprian Plague, because for some, he was considered an early victim of the that particular plague. Whilst this is contested, however it is widely understood that he gave a broad and detailed description of the illness.

Leaders of nations and Church leaders and everyone in between have used the phrase we are living in unprecedented times; this of course is obviously true. However over millennia the world has seen a number of catastrophic incidents which brought the world to the brink of annihilation, yet we are still here. Please don't misunderstand me, I'm not meaning to be flippant or minimise the current world wide crisis, especially for all those who have lost a loved one prematurely.

Even in the season of seemingly impendent doom I feel we can draw something from that ancient Persian adage, 'this too will pass' although the phrase has no scriptural foundation, it does however contain a truism, that I offer to the New Testament Church of God in England and Wales.



The government allows us daily exercise outside so why not use that time to walk and talk with God.

As you walk around your neighbourhood give some thought to what people are going through in this time of uncertainty and,

Join us via Zoom for a midday prayer walk on **25th May 2020**. Zoom ID will be promoted.

- Pray for families.
- Pray for relationships between neighbours.
- Pray for safety and peace
- Pray for local politicians and leaders
- Pray for residents.

What is the guidance on exercise from the Government?

There are a limited number of things you can now do that you could not do before:

- Spend time outdoors – for example sitting and enjoying the fresh air, picnicking, or sunbathing
- Meet one other person from a different household outdoors - following social distancing guidelines
- Exercise outdoors as often as you wish - following social distancing guidelines
- Use outdoor sports courts or facilities, such as a tennis or basketball court, or golf course – with members of your household, or one other person while staying 2 metres apart
- Go to a garden centre

At all times, you should continue to observe social distancing guidelines when you are outside your home, including ensuring you are 2 metres away from anyone outside your household.

POETRY DURING LOCKDOWN

Suzette Richards from NTCG Wolverhampton has recently set up a poem channel on YouTube called *Fresh Expression* and has written a great poem about COVID-19. Why not go to the link below and take a look.
www.youtube.com/channel/UCWT--O6k5QsU1A6iaiDCtmA



NATIONAL WDM RETREAT 2020, HILTON HOTEL, NORTHAMPTON

What an apt and fitting topic for this season. Who would have known back in early March 2020, whilst a group of women were gathered for a time of rest, relaxation and fellowship, that we would now be in the midst of an unprecedented situation with tackling the current Pandemic of the Coronavirus - Covid-19.

However, we are giving God the praise that WDM Retreat did take place prior to the lockdown and was an uplifting, motivating, inspiring and blessed event. Some attendees say that it was 'absolutely fantastic', with the atmosphere at the hotel being extremely conducive for those wanting time to retreat and relax.



We give thanks to God for the positive comments, that from the commencement of the Retreat on Friday evening the registration was efficient and support with transporting luggage to rooms was offered to those that required it, allowing the delegates to feel relaxed. The meals throughout the weekend was of a very high standard with a selection of cuisine to suit all palates. There was an abundance of hot beverages, tempting doughnuts and pastries on offer during the breaks and the staff were all friendly, attentive, polite, and very professional.



From the outset, Sis Joycelyne Bolt, eloquently set a positive tone with her welcome and as expected, the Retreat was undergirded with prayer, beginning on Friday which coincide 'World day of Prayer'. Small groups prayed fervently for various countries of the World. All the sessions were exceptional, the Spirit of the Lord move greatly among the women who were ready to offer up their praises, as well as receive the of blessings from the Lord.



The dynamic and thought-provoking lecture on Saturday morning 'Soul Ties', presented by Rev Hadassah Radway, raised emotions which may have previously been suppressed, these were managed with sensitively in a supportive and safe environment.

For many, one of the highlights of the weekend was the 'Banquet' on Saturday evening, which took on a new dimension, "Love for the nations" by modelling traditional apparel. They were modelled by women from or who were affiliated to the various countries, providing cultural information about music, costume and dance. The live band 'Praise with steel', enhanced the evening by bringing a unique sense of vibrance and energy.

The sharing of the Word on Sunday morning, by two energetic speakers Rev Hshaana Knight and Rev Grace Walder was a tremendous blessing, which helped to bring the event to a positive conclusion with an incredible final session of uplifting worship, communion and fellowship.



Who could have returned home from such a spectacular encounter with blessed women in the presence of God without feeling rejuvenated and revived with a fresh zeal to go forward embracing the new thing that God is doing? **To God be the glory.**

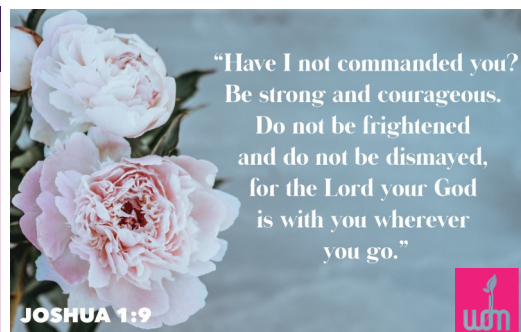
HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN FACE MASK



With there being guidance to now wear a face mask when you go into shops etc. see below link for making your own face mask at home.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52609777

Source: BBC



LOCKED DOWN BUT NOT LOCKED OUT!!



Although we can't physically meet with the men at present, our aim is to keep in touch by using different ways of communication.

As a board we have explored various ideas of how we can encourage, support and lift up the spirits of the men during this unprecedented time.

We are currently in the planning stages of presenting our first virtual Quiz Night which will bring men, women, families and friends together for an evening of fun and laughter.

The aim of the evening is to bring various individuals together to relieve us of the stress and strain which many of us are facing right now.

The evening will be hosted on the Zoom video conferencing platform and streamed on Facebook Live.

We hope the success of the event will inspire the men at district and local level to plan similar events.

CAUTION! CAUTION! CAUTION!

LIFE BUILDERS
present

LOCKDOWN QUIZ NIGHT
THUR 28 MAY @8PM

10 TEAMS | MAX 5 PER TEAM
MEN, WOMEN, FAMILIES
REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

www.lifebuilders.org.uk/quiz

Teams will play on ZOOM
with the full competition
LIVE STREAMED on FACEBOOK
for spectators

zoom f LIVE

Revd Paul Grey, the Lead Pastor of NTCG Low Hill in the Black Country released his new CD EP, **But I Fly** on Monday 16th March 2020 in West Park, Wolverhampton at the start of the lockdown in the UK.

'But I Fly' is a song of reflection and tells of Revd Paul's transformation after personal struggles. Like the transformational process of a caterpillar into a butterfly, the lyrics take you through the process. The book of Romans says, "do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind".

'But I Fly' is for all those going through some form of struggle; in particular those going through, or have gone through mental health issues in our community. There is hope in Jesus name.

Colin Brown, Secretary of Reggae Fraternity UK states, "Paul Grey's 'But I Fly' was played by me on my UK Reggae Exposé. I received very positive feedback from some listeners."

John Burgess, Director of PR at johnthebap.com in the USA commented that "...this song is so good that we will add it immediately to our daily rotation on our station, making it the first reggae song to do so."

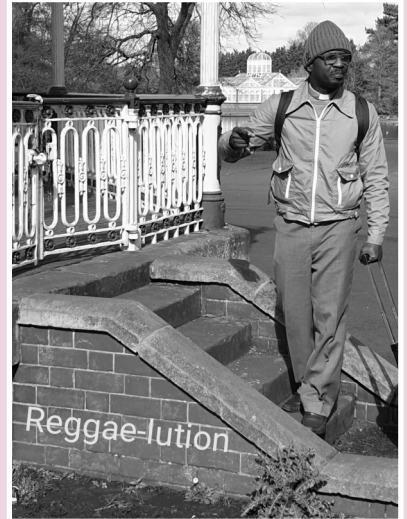
The song is being promoted by Reggae Fraternity UK, as well as Christian ministries in the UK and abroad. An accompanying video is scheduled to be released around the middle of May 2020.

This Smart Link allows you to listen to Revd Paul's EP using your preferred music streaming service - <https://awal.lnk.to/rMHRx4rz>

You can also watch his newly released video by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/fh1KLyOgg6A>

Special thanks to Reggae Gospel 360 and Shekinah Ministries for their prelaunch support.



ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

Challenges of Pentecostal Theology in the 21st Century

Edited and introduced by Phyllis Thompson

ISBN 97802 810 84258

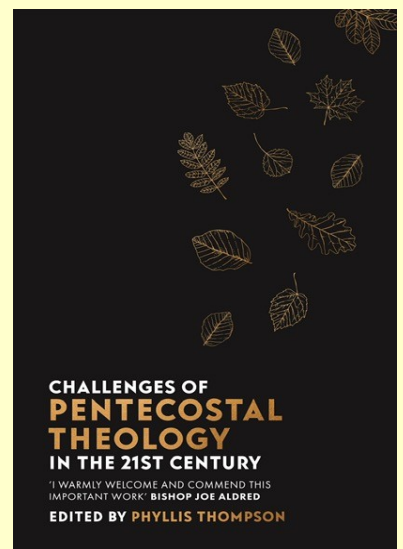
£14.99

RELEASE DATE
18 JUNE 2020

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR COPY!

Orders can be made from one of the online retailers or from the LTC via the following email address

katie.mcilravie@ntcg.org.uk





This month SAM launch Faith for a Mate Academy - a subscription podcast, which provides in-depth talks on the biblical perspective of finding a mate. It follows a recent upsurge in sign-ups to their Faith for a Mate video

course and is also a natural outgrowth of their Theology for Singles podcast site. Launched 2.5 years ago, Theology for Singles has engaged speakers from the UK, Trinidad and the Netherlands, to address some of the Faith for a Mate themes displayed on their website header (above), with nearly 2,500 podcast downloads to date.

“Despite all the books, YouTubes and seminars, there’s an astonishing lack of applied biblical teaching on this theme” says Revd David King, National SAM Coordinator. *“Where biblical teaching exists, it tends to be too general and lacking in practical application. Whereas others tend to base their teachings on personal experiences more than the Bible”*, he said.

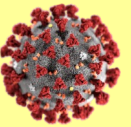


For a nominal annual subscription fee, Faith for a Mate Academy is expected to provide singles with an uncommon resource of quality teaching through Theology for Singles website, though the site will continue to provide free downloadable podcasts too.



In November, the Leadership Training Centre in association with SAM plan to host a training weekend for those who provide leadership to singles at local church level. To find out more or to discover more about SAM, please email: sam@ntcg.org.uk or go to: www.ntcg.org.uk/sam

CORONAVIRUS: COVID-19



Keep up to date with the latest information on the Coronavirus pandemic:

World Health Organisation (WHO)
https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1

Government Website:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If anyone needs to check their symptoms, they should go to **NHS 111 Online:**
<https://111.nhs.uk/>

A reliable source of the latest news on the virus is the **BBC:**
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/coronavirus>



IN THE SPOTLIGHT - REV PHYLLIS THOMPSON



I was born in Virginia, Manchester, Jamaica and came to England as a 9 year old to join my parents in the early 60s. So most of my life has been lived here in England.

Like many who were brought up in a Christian home, I was familiar with Christian values and a form of Christian lifestyle but in terms of considered, holistic commitment, I would best describe this as an incremental experience at the ages of 12, 16 and 24yrs old - perhaps a 'Timothy experience'!

I have had the privileged opportunity to use my teaching, leadership, pastoral and preaching gifts for kingdom purposes within and beyond the NTCG. I currently administer the Heritage Centre which includes the Oliver Lyseight lectures and edit the lectures for publication. I am a member of the Northampton NTCG leadership team. I serve on the Church of God International Division of Education Board and I am an Executive Council member of the European Pentecostal Theological Association.



To answer the question of 'one thing you have been most proud of in your life?' is quite difficult. The Lord has been more than good to me. I am eternally grateful for the gift of life in abundance, the privilege to engage in ground breaking initiatives such as the Zebra Project in the late 70s, amazing teaching opportunities in the 80s, pastoral and media work in the 90s, the LTC in the 2020s, my current work at the Heritage Centre and the Oliver Lyseight lectures and the sheer joy of sharing my experience with others and observing the impact on their pilgrimage.

When I am not engaged in obvious ministry, I like to get my head down in a good book, watch an engaging film or a good play or sit in my garden and treat myself to a 'heaven on earth' experience. I love to travel to places of interest in the UK or abroad where I can simply 'stand and stare' at the wonders of our creative God but for the moment that part of me must be on hold' until the impact of the virus is behind us.

In each issue, you will be introduced to a member of the NTCG Church family. Please do not hesitate to nominate someone that you feel should be featured in future.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Rev Winston Taylor

In February 2020, Rev Taylor transferred to NTCG Sheffield to continue his good work as Pastor. Bishop Taylor's wife Daphne also takes up the role as District Women's Ministries President. Rev Taylor also takes up the role of District Overseer.



Rev Terence Taylor

In April 2020, Rev Terence Taylor transferred to the NTCG Family Worship Centre (Chuckery Road) to undertake his continued duties as Pastor. Rev Taylor's wife Karen will also take up the role of Local Women's Ministries President.



Rev Catherine Harris

In April 2020, Rev Catherine Harris started in the role of Pastor within NTCG Woodgate for a period of 12 months. Rev Harris has been a member of NTCG Woodgate since January 2019 and previous to that was a member of NTCG Highgate. Rev Harris is supported by her husband Frederick.

WISHING YOU ALL EVERY BLESSING IN YOUR NEW ENDEAVOURS

SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT is a digital event (online) where we invite one or more leaders to discuss a topic ranging from current affairs to music and the arts and their significance in the believers life. The key part of each episode will be the Q&A element.

Episodes will be run on ZOOM with the guests and live streamed to Facebook or YouTube for viewers to watch and submit questions/comments. The aim is to end each episode with at least 3 actionable takeaways that men can implement.



← This screen shot is from a pilot interview by NTCG Erdington with Allen Langham, former pro-rugby player and street gangster now a Sports Chaplain,

Prison Minister and author. He has an amazing story of the power of Jesus to change lives. *LifeBuilders will advertise their quests for the coming months soon*

For the full interview with Allen Langham, go to <https://youtu.be/oyY3ZMHd834>

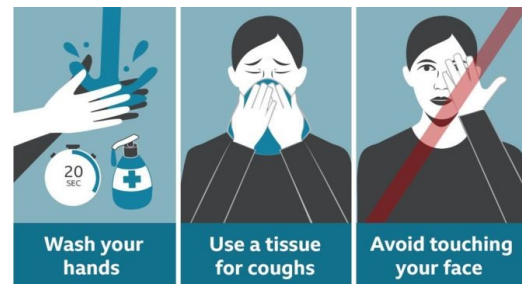


CHURCH OF GOD 78TH INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA • JULY 21-24, 2020

As you will have heard, the General Assembly for 2020 has unfortunately been postponed. Please see the announcement from General Overseer, Dr Tim Hill at the following link, which provides further details:

www.churchofgodcommunications.com/ga2020/GA20-Update-From-The-General-Overseer



TEARFUND EMERGENCY APPEAL

Tearfund is a charity consisting of CHRISTIANS PASSIONATE ABOUT ENDING POVERTY. They're vision is:

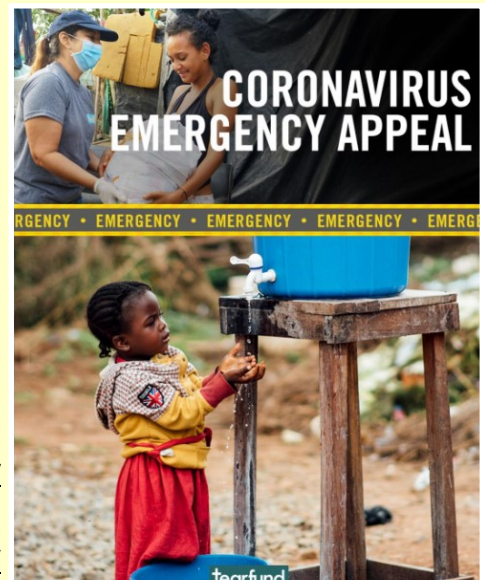
'As a Christian charity, Tearfund believes that everyone has an amazing God-given potential to create change. We show people around the world how to unlock these gifts and put them to use escaping poverty. Many of our partners in this work are local churches, who discover how to offer their communities material and spiritual hope'

Tearfund currently have a Coronavirus Emergency Appeal for those that living in extreme poverty and are affected by the disease.

- ◆ £54 could provide 18 families with a month's supply of life-saving essentials such as soap and disinfectant
- ◆ £82 could provide health training and food support to five families over three months

If you would like to donate or would like more information, go to: www.tearfund.org/latest/coronavirus-emergency-appeal/

They have also produced a Coronavirus Prayer Guide → www.tearfund.org/~media/files/main_site/about_you/pray/coronavirus-prayer-guide.pdf



If you have any news or information you wish to share via this Newsletter, please send them to Katie.mcilravie@ntcg.org.uk

Enter to Win

We have received some great suggestions for the name of our newsletter however we would like to extend the competition for a little longer to give everyone a chance.

So to be in with a chance to win a Maxwell Study Bible signed by Bishop Donald Bolt, please send your ideas to Katie McIlravie by **15th June 2020**.

A BIT OF FUN DURING LOCKDOWN

There are names of 16 books of the bible hidden in the paragraph below. Lets see how many you can find. A preacher found 15 books in twenty minutes; it took him three weeks just to find the sixteenth! HAVE FUN!

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. A certain Luke, kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a job. We want it to be a most fascinating little moment for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes the preacher to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how you will complete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen books of the Bible is in this paragraph.



NTCG CREATIVE ARTS: AUNDRAE JORDINE

Being formed in the image of the Lord our creator one of our distinguishing characteristics as people is our creativity. It's only right that we should harness our creative gifts to give honour to the Lord and serve Him with gladness. During this pandemic we have been forced to reflect on the question that the Lord posed to Moses... "what do you have in your hand?". We have been forced to use our natural creative abilities.

The formation of NTCG Creative Arts has at its root the desire to equip creative arts leaders and the Church generally to worship with all their heart, soul, mind and strength and dare I say... creativity...

The necessity to socially distance ourselves from one another compromises our ability to follow the instruction in Hebrews 10:25 not to neglect the gathering together of the saints and has struck at the heart of our worship experience.

NTCG Creative Arts response has been to find and share best practise to enable the creation at local level of engaging videos to inspire and encourage corporate worship in spite of the inability to gather together. That has been a combination of:

1. Providing worship videos as a collective for use in Churches. This includes the recordings of [He Arose](#) for Resurrection Sunday, [The Praise Medley](#) and (soon to come) worship ministry videos which will be released on Pentecost Sunday.
2. Providing simple guidance to local pastors and creative arts leaders to enable local and district teams to produce their own songs and other products to support their Church
3. Maintaining contact and providing support to creative arts leads

While in conversation with Bishop Robinson I was reminded of the old idiom "necessity is the mother of invention" and it has been encouraging seeing the Churches striving to maintain fellowship using modern media resources. One of the beautiful things we have witnessed and something I pray continues after we are able to gather again is the collaboration of members across districts. People not looking to their own interests but each looking to the interests of others (Philippians 2:4).

We have seen some great work from a number of worship teams and children's ministry teams who have built on the guidance and worked together to serve their fellowships. We would encourage you to stretch hands across districts all the more and build not only the ministry but also the relationships to recreate the oneness that the Lord loves. As the psalmist declares it is in unity that the blessing flows and it is the desire of our King that we are One!

An important feature in creating the videos is that we have identified the thing that we miss the most. We miss seeing each other and having rich fellowship and worship. I pray that this period of isolation renews our appreciation of one another and creates in us the hunger to gather like never before, even breaking down dividing walls so that we can continue to invest in one another and establish the Kingdom.

We have recently had a countrywide conversation with music directors and creative arts leads to gauge the needs in the localities and look at the way forward which was a great encouragement. At the time of writing I am really excited about our first online National Conference and our teams are working hard to support the Youth and Discipleship Dept for the delivery of National Youth and Discipleship Convention 2020. *Hope to see you there.*





Evangelism and Church Planting

From **INACTION** to **ACTION**

We have been chosen to introduce Christ to a generation who are desperately in need of salvation.

For the next 4 years we want to plant 3 new churches every year (12 churches in total).

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

– Matthew 28: 19-20



Communication

From **SILENCE** to **PRESENCE**

Communication impacts how we share the gospel, how we respond to society and how we respond to each other.

We must move from silence (not having a voice) to speaking out loud, taking advantage of every opportunity.

“...And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?”

– Romans 10:14



Pastoral Responsibility

From **HIRELING** to **SHEPHERDS**

The key responsibilities of a pastor is to rescue, feed, lead, protect, and comfort.

At National level we will set in place initiatives and provide support mechanisms to care for ministers.

“For even I, the Messiah, am not here to be served, but to help others...”

– Mark 10:45



Social Responsibility

From **SELF** to **SUPPORT**

Part of our responsibility as a Church is to speak out against the injustices of this world, for example, the increase of poverty in this country, the imbalance of young Black men in correctional institutions and mental facilities.

“But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?”

– Luke 10:29



Discipleship

From **BABES** to **MATURITY**

We must set in place discipleship programmes in our churches that will build strong followers of Jesus Christ. This is key to spiritual and numerical growth.

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

– John 13:35



Organisational Development

From **STATIC** to **MOVEMENT**

The positive unique characteristics of the Church of God will be strengthened through further acknowledgement and teaching on the key areas of organisational structure, governance, doctrine, and faith.

“...on this rock I will build my church...”

– Matthew 16:18



Leadership Development

From **MEDIOCRITY** to **EXCELLENCE**

The leadership of the church is a critical component of the mission. The focus will be on having effective leadership.

“You will never be an effective leader until you include those you lead in what you do.”

– C. Gene Wilkes - 'Jesus on Leadership'