Friday, 13 March 2020

Hello CV Family,

I want to write you a brief note to share a bit of my heart with you in this unprecedented time. I hope that’s ok.

I am not sure how you are responding to all that is going on at the moment. Perhaps the grip of anxiety and fear is closing in? Or perhaps you feel frustrated at what you think is hype and fearmongering? Maybe you don’t know what to think! I just want you to know that what you are feeling right now is OK.

If you are feeling overwhelmed and need someone to talk to, we are currently working on setting up a phone line where you can call in and receive prayer and comfort. We will share that number ASAP. In the meantime, use the CV Prayer Wall and we will follow up by phone. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/672740009835187/>)

Additionally, we want to adjust our normal schedule as a Church Family in order to make sure that our most vulnerable are protected. We will not be meeting as usual every week for the next while and here is a brief schedule of what will be happening between now and Easter Sunday:

* **Sunday, 15th March – CV IS meeting @ Canterbury Academy (please do not attend if you are not feeling well or have a cough/fever.) The event WILL be live streaming.**
* **Sunday, 22nd March – *NO SUNDAY WORSHIP GATHERING.***
* **Sunday, 29th March – CV Family Outdoors Walk. 11am. (More details to come.)**
* **Sunday, 5th April – “Love Canterbury” Events.**
* **Sunday, 12th April – EASTER SUNDAY under the Big Top! 10:30am. Location to be determined ASAP.**

Finally, this is also an incredible opportunity for us to LOVE CANTERBURY. We, as a Leadership Team, have a strong conviction that this is not merely something to “survive” or “endure” but it is also a moment where we can model Jesus to this world in love, self-sacrifice and generosity. Therefore, on Palm Sunday (5th April) we will be using that Sunday morning to implement a few projects by which we hope to encourage and comfort people around us who need it. A couple ideas in the works are (1) to bless NHS frontline staff and (2) care for our elderly neighbours and colleagues around us. If you have further ideas, please do not hesitate to send them to us! (admin@canterburyvineyard.com)

Beloved kids of God, YOU are the Salt of the earth, The Light of the World, A City Shining on a Hill. This is when we live this thing. We may be doing less meeting as normal but “different” can sometimes be critical to that which God is doing in our midst. Will you “embrace the change and seize this moment together?”

Please keep safe, follow expert advice and wash your hands! This may be a long season that requires real flexibility. Let’s encourage each other and hit our knees in prayer with real expectation that God IS AT WORK IN THIS. He did not author it, but He is NOT surprised by it! He has a plan. He wants to love our world THRU this. Will you join us in grasping onto that wholeheartedly?

In the Enormous Love of Christ,

Jimbo

Psalm 91 v1-16 is amazing to pray over yourselves, families and communities.