



**KYAG COVID-19 Weekly Update**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 12:00 Noon, EST**  
**By the Superintendent of the**  
**Kentucky Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God**

My missionary daughter presently living in Costa Rica during her C19 isolation has begun a daily online & digital study with friends across the continents looking at the twelve masteries of Richard Foster's classic, *Celebration of Discipline*; Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study, Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service, Confession, Worship, Guidance, and Celebration. She is choosing to recreate how she uses her digital community. Maybe we could all learn a similar lesson as we navigate these ongoing weeks of reconsidering who we are and what we value.

Renee and I have joined the study along with dozens of others. Allow me to consider take-aways from my re-reading (I've read the book about four or five times) of the first chapter of Foster's work that merits lasting recognition.

- Rich are the words calling us to move from "surface living into the depths." (pg1)
- Thomas Merton's reminder (pg 2) that while we do not desire to be beginners, "we will never be anything else but..." is sobering truth.
- One faces their own sinful nature recognizing the "disciplines...(are)...a means of receiving His grace...(allowing)...us to place ourselves before God so that He can transform us." (pg 6)
- And, as in anything else, such as reading the bible daily - because a pastor said to, or doing a devotional out of some inner-obligation, Foster brings us to realization proclaiming "law-bound disciplines breath death." (pg 8)
- For me, personally, 1860's-ish Russian author, Leo Tolstoy's (author of War and Peace) quote on page 9 brought the whole of "Door of Liberation" full center. "Everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself."

And, just possibly, COVID 19 is doing just that; changing all of us, to some degree. I pray, for the better.

• **KYAG Pastors/Ministers/Global Workers: I remain delighted** regarding your leadership during C19. Daily, I hear of how God's Church is reaching communities with Spirit-directed innovation. God continues to use you. Lead with hope. Lead with faith. Lead with wisdom.

• **This plague has shown** us how swiftly our lives can change, how delicate our health can be, and how significant are our friends and family to us.

• **Positive Spins:** Companies large and small are going out of their way to continue paying employees during this crisis. Covid 19 Funds are being created from the East coast to the West coast to offer assistance for those most adversely impacted. Coffee shops and restaurants are offering complimentary services for medical personal. Zoom.com has helped make the world a little more accessible. Free digital training and resourcing abounds. Good souls are sewing facemasks and mailing them to health care workers. Encouraging patrons are tipping larger tips to assist restaurant employees. People are making hand sanitizer for friends, groups, and networks. Food banks are going into overdrive.

• **Phone calls and Check-ins:** Each of our hundreds of KMN credentialed ministers have been contacted twice to check on their health and families well-beings during this time of social isolation and home-bound mobile environments.

• **Remember:** Join live by using the LINK provided week-to-week via email and text, Pastor Joe / **Superintendent Girdler's one-time-per-week Superintendent's COVID 19 ZOOM Update meeting (Thursdays, 4:00PM, EST)**. All (nearly 400) ministers/KYAG credential holders, KYAG global workers, KYAG Ministry Department Leaders, and KYAG Office Staff are sent links to this weekly Superintendent's Zoom. Each week offers highlights and insights from a Guest Contributor and from one or more of our missionary family joining from somewhere across nations.

o **For this week's Superintendent's Zoom Call Meeting** with KYAG ministers and global workers, I'll be addressing:

1. A special topic from our weekly Invited Guest, and
2. Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's Some Thoughts on How.

o **Previous Special Guests have included:**

o Doug Clay - General Superintendent, Assemblies of God – USA

o Charlie Self, PhD – C19 and market place ministry

o Carolyn Tennant, PhD – C19 and preparing for revival to follow

• **Reminders of our present holding pattern until further notice:**

o **The Network office and Camp Crestwood** ~ is now closed until April 30, 2020. Re-opening after that date TBD.

- **The KMN Office does have a remote mobile phone (502-689-5912).** Administrative Assistant, Jackie Tank will remotely continue to receive your calls and inquiries during regularly scheduled office hours (9AM - 4:30PM EST). We can, as mentioned, function remotely from our Network office and will be able to accommodate your standard calls and questions, emails, and inquiries.

o **Check your email (and/or Spam/Junk files)** regularly for e-communication from Supt. Girdler/KMN, as well as invite Links to the weekly (as mentioned) (each Thursday at 4pm ET) KYAG Superintendent's COVID 19 Update ZOOM meetings.

o **Reminder: No public or social gatherings** are approved at this time.

o **All KYAG churches are to conduct on-line services** only until further notice.

o **Drive-In Services:** While Gov. Beshear has given a green light, various local city mayors or ordinances have denied such opportunities. Be sure to check in advance with your local city government offices for respectful awareness, permissions (as needed), and relational networking (always a win).

- From a Network, Departmental, or Sectional level **please cancel or postpone until further notice any scheduled public events/gatherings. And, inform your local churches to do the same.**

o **Travel Ban:** Please remember the Governor has directed a 14 day quarantine after returning from any out of state travel.

- **RESOURCES:** Approximately 75 or more resources for local churches and ministry leaders, from text to give options, to online ministry tools, to discipleship and kids ministry options have been provided on our *Kentucky A.G. Ministers & Leaders Facebook group*.

o **Federal Government (\$) Cares Act:** You have received information from myself and from Sec/Treas, Stan Holder's office regarding the Cares Act. Consider your church's needs and act promptly if you choose to apply for benefits therein.

o You can also review information at these websites: covid19.ag.org, influencemagazine.com, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

o Visit: <https://www.kyag.org/subscribe> for detailed information from our APRIL (and upcoming MAY) KMN *Special Edition Kentucky Challenge* Newsletter/Magazine regarding news, updates, websites, resources, and more for KYAG COVID-19.

o **MISSIONS:** We are the Assemblies of God; it's what we do. / Let me highly encourage that you do everything possible to make sure your missions pledges don't get cut and the faith promise giving you've promised to your missionaries and global workers continue.

**And, finally to church leaders everywhere:**

1. This is a season of humility and grace. Encourage and edify. Political jargon and firing criticism helps no one. And, remember, your decisions, comments, and actions impact others.
2. Remember, one size does not fit all. Your church and the church down the street very well may have certain matters that need to be dealt with differently.
3. Be cautious to not insinuate things that may cause more division than health. You may have opinions. Not everything you think needs to be put on social media or added into a gospel presentation – that should be about one thing: The Gospel.
4. Now more than ever, consider your doctrine, presentation, theology, and exegesis matters. High volumes of well wishers, faith seekers, and faithful followers from across the nations (not just down the street) are looking for truth. Give it to them; lovingly, directly, and without superficial nuances.

I am very proud of our leaders across the Bluegrass. Thank you for all you do!

JSG

Sincerely yours, and for our Church,  
Pastor Joe / Joseph S. Girdler, D.Min.  
Superintendent, Kentucky Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God

[#KMN2020](#)