



COVID-19

KYAG COVID-19 Weekly Update
Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 12:00 Noon, EST
By the Superintendent of the
Kentucky Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God

Allow me to begin this more lengthy written weekly Superintendent's Update with a poetical expression I penned just days ago.

Alien Days

Joseph S. Girdler
4.20.2020

Warriors stand restless for liberties mistreated.
Nations lay idol and markets depleted.
Questions linger in uncertain times.
Hospitals fill with sobering chimes.
The Church holds firm with truth completed.
The world concerned; unseated; retreated.
Hope most divine in mysterious prime.
Good redefined inexplicable sublime.
No other name but He above all.
Author of joy to those who call.

New Information:

- Like you, we patiently wait; busy about the Lord's word and work.
- Ky Schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year.
- Current survival rate figures for the US = 98.54%; Let's promote that for a change. Good news.
- Drive-by prayers and meal drop-offs are winning battles against hunger and discouragement. Neighbors are calling and checking on people like we've not seen in years. Thank you notes are showing up on car windshields, front door knobs, and on front porches. People are making donations. People are giving blood. People are working to keep safe distances with social distancing to protect themselves and others from infection. Corporations like Amazon are hiring tens of thousands of new employees and giving raises to present workers during C19. Mental Health Benefits across numerous companies are being offered confidentially and free of charge for employees struggling.
- And, always remember, if you do find yourself in a position of the need, we're here for you! For any AG ministers and their families, Emerge Counseling Ministries has a staffed Help Line available to you; anonymous and confidential. (Look on the back of your credential card.)
- KYAG Missions Trips globally, via international travel restrictions are all on-hold until further notice.
- KY's Governor Beshear is yet to offer reopen-the-church initiatives saying "Kentucky is yet to meet the White House benchmarks" to allow reopen guidelines.
- Mark Your Calendars. The target date of Tuesday, August 11, 2020 has been set to hold a Special Session, One-Day KYAG Annual Convention / District Council to proceed with the key election of the office of Network Pastor/Superintendent, and to share together one service with designated

Ordinations. Location: Louisville, KY: Calvary Christian Center (C3AG), Taylorsville Road. Details forthcoming.

White House/President Trump's 3-Phase Re-Open Plan:

1. **Phase one:** Restaurants, movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship and gyms can reopen if they observe strict social distancing. Elective surgeries can resume when appropriate on an outpatient basis.
 - a. Schools currently closed should remain shut and visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should be prohibited. Bars should remain closed. High-risk individuals should remain at home.
2. **Phase two:** Schools and organized youth activities like camps can reopen. Nonessential travel can resume, and people can start circulating in parks, outdoor recreational areas and shopping centers, while avoiding gatherings of more than 50 individuals unless unspecified precautionary measures are taken. Restaurants, movie theaters and other large venues can operate under moderate social distancing rules.
 - a. Vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place, and employers should continue to encourage telework whenever possible. Common areas where people congregate in close quarters should be closed. Bars can operate with diminished standing-room occupancy.
3. **Phase three:** Vulnerable individuals can resume public interactions but practice social distancing. Employers can resume unrestricted staffing of workplaces. Large public venues can operate under limited social distancing rules. Visits to senior care facilities and hospitals can resume. The big picture: It leaves the final say in any loosening of restrictions to state and local officials, adding that governors should work on a regional basis to progress through the phased recovery. The document repeats past federal guidance on personal hygiene — including urging people to wear masks or face coverings when in public. Employers should consider temperature checks, social distancing and doing their own testing and contact tracing. It urges barring anyone with symptoms from returning to work until they are cleared by a medical provider.

KY GOV. BESHEAR re: White House BENCHMARKS

1. The White House is asking for thresholds to meet:
 - a. A decrease of 14 days in flattening the curve; downward slope
KY is one of the best states in statistics, but not yet on a downward slope.
2. The existing healthcare community must have ability for surge capacity.
3. Robust testing for healthcare workers.
4. Adequate PPE to healthcare workers; hospitals, clinics, doctors, without having to have the state and federal gov't subsidize.
5. Be capable of flexibility, fluidity, in protecting people and dealing with the virus if spikes were to occur.

PHASES:

Individuals: phases, gradual, groups of 10 or less, still sheltering ...

Employees: protect them, school/youth "no", ...

Benchmarks: ...for a "new" normal...

1. number and rate of new cases
2. Testing and tracing capacity
3. Personal protection and equipment availability (PPE)
4. Protect our at-risk populations
5. Ability to social distance and comply to CCD guidelines
6. Preparedness to deal with a possible future spike
7. Status of vaccines and treatments – the closer we get to a vaccine-the faster we return to 'old'

normal

AG General Superintendent, Doug Clay Updates:

- Our prayers go to the families of 11 credentialed AG ministers across the United States who have died via c19.
- Review recent teaching with Evangelist, Tim Enloe, re: the work of the Holy Spirit when you are isolated, at home.
- What's Next: What Shifts need to be made:
 - Q. What have we learned? A. Innovation can happen at any church size.
 - Q. What have we implemented that we will keep? A. Collaborating is happening like never before.
- Cross generationally; cross ministry;
 - Q. What have we realized that needs to be tweaked? A. Details of how we conduct business.
 - Q. What have you realized that you can do without? A. ...
- AG National Fine Arts has been cancelled for 2020
- Gen Presbytery will not meet in Columbus; but either 1) virtual, and / or 2) in person (?); likely, virtual. TBD.
- A Collaboration hopefully will stay in place:
 - o Rick Dubose, Ass't Gen. Supt, with CMN (Church Multiplication Network), and multiple church planters thinking...
 - o CMN, ACTS 2, & Church Ministries are collaborating to create a re-launch package... for best practices, youth, children, small groups, etc. to reinvent themselves...
 1. Self initiative; the pastor would have to want to do it;
 2. Self evaluated; answering 10 questions about himself/themselves
 3. Self-navigation; video support, or whatever... click here...
 4. Self implementation;
 - believing many pastors/churches will do this
 - it's a digital process
 - all on the Covid 19 AG site
 - all on the CMN site

ACMR:

- How to track 2020 stats: a letter will be mailed to churches,
- And, ACMR data will be used that was rec'd to date prior to c19 disruption

AG involvement as to Federal REOPEN plans with President Trump:

- Doug Clay:
 - o Be essential
 - o Whatever the roll out plan is, we'll abide by it
 - o Even if churches were open this Sunday; nobody would have a 100%
 - o It will work to our advantage to come back into this slowly and grow into it;
- Numerous churches across the nation reporting RECORD MONTHS for giving.

A KY Medical Society Director's Statement

to the often asked question:

- Why the extreme restrictions with C19 when annual flu kills far more people?

The death rate in Kentucky for covid has already surpassed the flu for this year. It is at least 10 times more deadly. And no vaccine. Social distancing is truly the only way to stop this. With the flu, social distancing would be incredibly effective if we actually did it. Think about this: how many people do you know go to work sick normally that shouldn't be there during flu season?

With that being said, when I compared the transmissibility and deadliness of COVID-19 to the Spanish flu, COVID-19 is off the charts. It's exponentially worse and thus the mitigation factors much more necessary and we know how deadly Spanish flu was.

Certainly, God is calling us to the DEEP.

Here's just two of multiple messages I have received in the last few days:

I am honored to have rec'd this message from a pastor:

Fri. April 17, 2020

Pastor,

The Spirit has fallen upon me!

For the past 15 minutes I've been weeping with a sense of mourning for what we've become.

We've wandered into desert void of the Spirit's presence. Replacing Him with form and function. I believe He is calling us to pray for a Spirit of repentance to fall upon His people; For streams to break forth in the desert, and dry bones to live.

May the Spirit fall upon you and all His people, today.

Love you.

(a KYAG Pastor)

And, I'll close with this. I am likewise grateful to have rec'd this message from one of our university professors at Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL:

Tues. April 21, 2020

Thank you very much Dr. Girdler for your strong commitment to common sense and health during this crisis. I am confident that you have received negative feedback, perhaps significant negative feedback.

I am concerned with those who have placed temporal financial gain over health. From my reading of the biblical text and historical theological commitments, I see the church as the one who should be leading the way in calling for life to have focus for economics. I have appreciated how you have approached this.

This is particular the concern of those who have or might have underlying immune concerns. To open up unwisely, which many states and churches are apparently doing, is not the way that we as a church should speak to society. We need to advocate for life from conception through medical care for all in natural death.

Thank you for your stepping to the plate. I greatly appreciate your leadership in this. You have been and are doing the church and society a great service in this crisis.

Thank you very much.

Name, Ph.D.

Professor ...

School of Divinity at

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Southeastern University

Lakeland, Florida 33801

PhD in Historical Theology

from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

Respectfully,

Joseph S. Girdler, DMin

Superintendent / Network Pastor / KY Assemblies of God