

Sisters and Brothers, may the peace of Christ be with you.

At our coordinators meeting last Monday the coordinators suggested that I use this letter to focus on what we have been discussing as leaders these past months regarding Community and how to live our covenant in these challenging times.

In the past the coordinators met every other Monday and focused mostly on hearing the Lord and making decisions how to follow Him in the day-to-day life of Community. Once or twice a year we would step back from day-to-day things and meet for a 'Day of Prayer' where we would spend more time in prayer and try to hear the Lord more 'high level'. Lord, where are you at work? How can we cooperate with what You are doing? How can we best serve You and our sisters and brothers in Community?

Since the virus has put most of the typical activities of the Community on hold the coordinators have been able to spend our weekly conference calls listening and dialoging about the direction of Community, what God is about, how we might change what we are doing to better serve Him and serve you. The discussions have been more 'high level' akin to the ones we had at our Days of Prayer.

Our discussions started with the basics of who we are and what is our call. We affirmed our calling to be His Covenant People here in the Dallas area serving Him to the best of our ability. The mission that emerged is similar to that of the early Church: Worship God, Teach, Care for those in need, and Evangelize. As a covenant people we think our response should be to:

- Love and trust the Lord, Praise & Worship Him, and follow His lead
- Unite in one mind and heart in responding to His call
- Devote ourselves to prayer and ministry of the Word
- Love and care for one another and the needy
- Teach and evangelize, partnering with others

Our response needs to comprehend the reality of our situation today as we are older and smaller and may best serve the Lord by partnering with other groups for events and/or using existing high-quality teaching materials. The calling and

the mission are the same. God needs a covenanted people in DFW to accomplish His will...the key to our response is not to continue as we always have but to see how He is working today and say Yes.

Similarly, other aspects of Community life may need to change. We need to revisit our patterns of meetings such as how and how often we meet as a whole Community and in Areas. We need to investigate how we use video conference calls for Area and small group meetings. The virus has forced us to consider video conferences and when the virus is behind us our best path forward may be a combination of physical meetings and video meetings.

Please do not misunderstand me, I am not suggesting we convert our Sunday prayer meeting to video. There can be no substitute for covenant sisters and brothers coming together to sing and praise the Lord together. Our five decades together prove there is no better way to come into the Lord's presence and hear and discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us! But we want to be open to the Lord speaking to us and blessing us in new ways.

An example of this is the recent Area meetings that have been conducted over video conference. The reports have been very positive as sisters and brothers who were not physically able to attend on Sundays because of distance have been able to join in. Many have expressed great joy at seeing sisters and brothers on the video and catching up on life after having been away from active Community attendance.

A common question in most of our minds is 'When will we be able to restart our Sunday Gatherings?' The coordinators have been discerning this month by month. In June we got close to restarting but held off due to a resurgence of the virus. Things seem to be improving so we are once again discussing a possible restart date. We know that when we restart we will need a lot of volunteers to assist with setup, take down, and to manage things during the meeting. To that end we want to hear from you regarding your readiness to restart attending Sunday Gatherings in person and your willingness to volunteer in some role to make it

happen. Besides following all local and national guidelines what other things should be considered?

This is a formal request for your input. Please contact your coordinator or simply reply to this email. Are you ready to restart Sunday prayer meetings? If not, when? If so, are you willing and able to help? How often should we have our Sunday meetings? We will continue Area video calls, any other suggestions?

Living our Covenant - As always, please reach out if you have any needs or just need someone to talk to. Please continue sharing the Spiritual Gifts with one another and with the Coordinators. Please reach out to your Area coordinator or me if you have unmet needs that your covenant sisters and brothers can help with. Please donate online at www.GodsDelight.org or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222 as we are dependent on your generosity for our ongoing financial needs.

Let us pray together the responsorial psalm: *Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him. Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides. Oh, that today we would hear his voice and harden not our hearts.*

God bless,
David