



April 13, 2020

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST[®] CHURCH

Southwest Region Conference

Office of the President

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PASTORS, HEAD ELDERS AND LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS
SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Dearly beloved,

I write to you believing and hoping that you are surviving in the monumental crisis that the World is facing today. No other generation in this century has faced such a crisis but rest assured that God has not forsaken us, nor has he abandoned your family and your church. God will see us through these trying times. Be encouraged as we move forward toward the Kingdom. This crisis just reminds us that we are in the prophetic clock and every hour and every second brings us a moment closer to the Kingdom. I would like to suggest to you as well as all of us, the family of God, to study and prepare ourselves not only for this pandemic but for the approaching storms that the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy said would happen. My prayer is that you, your church family and our Conference family would draw closer to God because it is obvious that He that shall come is coming.

Your Conference lifts you up in prayer every morning at 9 and in the evening at 5 because you are the true body of Christ. God desires all of us to prosper and to be in good health. I'm encouraging you to carry on with your duties. Although our buildings are closed our churches are still open. Use your telephone, your computer, or even write a letter to another member in the church. Let's stay in contact and do a welfare check on one another. In these dire times in which we live in, God is calling all of us to be faithful to our commitment to Him, faithful to our responsibilities, our family and our church.

With this letter is your Conference Response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You will notice that we have responded and that our pastors, churches and schools are doing all that they can to assure that our membership is safe, both spiritually and mentally.

Many of our services are online and every Friday at 7:30 PM you are invited into my living room for the President's Fireside Chat live on Facebook. On Sabbath, our youth can have a Bible Bowl experience at 2 o'clock and a worship service at 3 o'clock in English and at 4 o'clock in Spanish. You do not need a Facebook account to watch the live broadcasts on <http://www.facebook/SouthwestRegion>.

There will be difficult and challenging days ahead. We have entered into a place where no conference has ever gone before. It will call for a spiritual commitment, a financial commitment and a service commitment from all of us to maintain the blessings that God has given us. In a time of crisis, one's true character and commitment to God is realized. I am encouraged by what I'm hearing from around our field and by the many prayers that are going up. I am persuaded that neither Corona nor fear will separate this Conference to the projection to which God is directing us to. Please pray for me, our Conference Committee and our Corona Task Team Force members and our Union, Division and General Conference as we struggle to drive through these turbulent waters. Jesus is still the Captain and we will make it to the shores of safety with Him. God bless and protect you.

Your servant leader,

Calvin L. Watkins, Sr.

President

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