



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST[®]
CHURCH

Southwest Region Conference

Office of the President

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March 19, 2020

Dear Southwest Family,

When we look at the events relating to the COVID-19 crisis unfolding right before our eyes, we know that they are all pointing to the nearness of Jesus' return. The Bible predicted that in the last days there would be disease and pestilence and you and I are living in the time of the end to see it. We should not be shocked but rather prepared.

The COVID-19 situation has affected the whole world and America, and what affects America affects our churches. There is no need to panic, your Southwest Region Conference is constantly monitoring the situation and meeting daily with the Southwest Region Conference COVID-19 Crisis Team and your local pastor to assess and give appropriate guidelines as we follow the most current CDC and local state government recommendations.

Effective immediately, all Southwest Region Conference church buildings are closed at least through April 4, 2020. We will communicate with your pastor before April 4 on how we should proceed. While church buildings are closing, churches are not. Each of us make up the church, and, on that principle, we are asking our pastors to use the online platforms to stay connected with you in worship, Bible study and fellowship. Please contact your local pastor to find out how you can join your local congregation remotely this Sabbath for the worship service.

As you worship from home, you can also be faithful to God through your tithes and offerings. There are two ways in which you can do this:

1. **Online** through AdventistGiving.org by a) downloading the app on your smart device, b) logging from a computer at www.adventistgiving.org or c) going to www.mysouthwestregionconference.org and selecting "Give" from the main menu. After setting up your profile and financial information securely, search for your local church. An electronic tithe envelope will then allow you to enter your tithe and offering amounts and remit. If your local church is not setup yet, you can still give online by choosing Southwest Region Conference Seventh-day Adventist Church as the church. Your tithe and offerings will securely be remitted to the Conference office.
2. **By mailing** your check to a secure postal address of your local church or directly to the Southwest Region Conference at the address on this letterhead.

Your Conference administrators and departmental staff want to stay connected with you as well and talk about what is happening in our world and our Church. Starting this Friday, March 20, 2020, the Southwest Region Conference will be live on Facebook for a "Fireside Chat with President Watkins." We invite you to join us at 7:30 p.m. (CST) on our Facebook/SouthwestRegion page. Please help us extend the invitation for others to join.

More than ever, this is the time for us to come together and pray and show that we trust in God. Let's not be discouraged whatever may come your way. God is in control and He is concerned about you. Remember that, no matter how bad or dark the world may seem, it remains in God's steady hand. May God take care of you as you take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Praying for safety and health,

Calvin L. Watkins, Sr.
President

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