

Bethel Church Pastoral Letter

*“In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.
Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.”
(Psalm 120:1-2)*

Beloved Saints of Bethel Church!

In these difficult times we are facing together, my earnest prayer is for the amazing grace and peace of the Lord to fill and overflow in your hearts and in your families!

The past two days have been a busy period spent, together with the Session, meeting with media and cooperating closely with the County Health Department and the Korean Consulate in response to the current situation. Also, I have been praying continually for the many saints who have been worried and in prayer over recent events. Seeing a text message originally sent within the church to help deal with a situation become speculated on outside then transmitted through various portals and media, and rumors distorting beyond actual facts, I thought to myself “The coronavirus must be propagating infectiously like this.”

Furthermore, I share with you the results of discussions had with the County Health Department after we notified the County of the situation. The County Health Department official was already in possession of the information. This official first concluded that the March 14th funeral service had been conducted in compliance with all health standards, and from reverse-traced epidemiological estimation concluded that the confirmed person was not likely to have been in a condition to transmit to others on that day. Moreover, the official expressed the view that because the funeral service was conducted in safe manner, it was not necessary to close Bethel Church nor for attendees to self-quarantine. However, the Session of Bethel Church, in

order to avoid confusion among the Saints and to best fulfill our social responsibilities to the community, chose to proceed with the safety measures as previously published in the Press Release.

Again, the current situation is no one's fault, and we are all victims of fear concerning virus infection and incomplete information. Therefore, I ask that we all maintain our presence before God and pray for and comfort the many around us who are infected and suffering, and for their families. This could happen to anyone in the future, and in those situations the church must take the lead in protecting and providing comfort. I implore you to gather all of your hearts and prayers in this work.

Please pray especially for the many elderly of the church who are not able to participate through unfamiliar online worship services. For seniors who have difficulty accessing online services, please contact the church office, and we will prepare sermon CDs for them.



Daniel Shinjong Bae

Senior Pastor

[Prayer Topics]

1. God, with the ever-increasing number of people with infection, bring Your healing power to restore those who are infected, comforting their families and keeping them in Your grace and peace.
2. Grant all the medical professionals and health care professionals who are battling on the front lines renewed strength and protection from exhaustion under difficult circumstances.
3. During these difficult times, God, let the church become the light of the community, providing comfort to those in need, and remaining a community of faith that is unwavering in worship to You!