

Salem Baptist District Association Dr. Reginald E. Bachus – Moderator



March 24, 2020

Greetings in the Precious and Powerful Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I pray that each of you are doing well and staying safe during this trying time we are facing with COVID-19. It is an unprecedented time for all of us, but with the Lord's help and the power of concerted prayer we will survive and be stronger on the other side of this test.

This is a very serious pandemic that we cannot ignore. So, I urge you again to make sure you keep your hands washed and away from your eyes, nose and mouth. Be sure to practice social distancing – maintaining 6 feet between yourself and those you do not know. Also, be sure to sanitize your hands after being in public and touching door handles, open surfaces etc. Here are a few facts from the *New England Journal of Medicine* indicating how long COVID-19 can live on common surfaces:

- ❖ Airborne – 3 hours
- ❖ Copper – 4 hours
- ❖ Cardboard – 24 hours (Boxes and money included)
- ❖ Stainless Steel – 2 to 3 days
- ❖ Polypropylene plastic – 3 days

Additionally – the Center for Disease Control released the following information this past Sunday: "On Sunday March 1, 2020, there were 70 reported cases of COVID-19 in 6 states. On Sunday, March 22, 2020, there were 24,300 cases in 50 states." That is why we must take this pandemic seriously.

I am in total agreement with the Word of God as Paul teaches young Timothy in II Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." We cannot afford to stop at the fact that God has not given us a spirit of fear for in the same verse Paul indicates that we also are to have love and a sound mind. Love will lead us to look out for one another and a sound mind will give us the wisdom to navigate these crucial times successfully.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic I would like to make three announcements:

- ❖ I was informed that the National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education, which was to be held in Kansas City, Missouri June 22 – 26, 2020, has been cancelled. Please help us spread the word among our constituents.
- ❖ The Baptist General State Convention of Illinois Spring Board Meeting scheduled for April 27-29, 2020, in Fairview Heights, Illinois has been cancelled. Again, please help us spread the word among our constituents.
- ❖ I am asking each church, pastor and member of Salem to join me in specific times of prayer as we pray for those that have been infected with COVID-19, those who are caregivers, our front-line health professionals who continue to care for the sick, our nation's political leadership and most definitely for every pastor and congregation as we move forward during this trying time. I am asking that we pray collectively at 8 a.m. each morning and at 8 p.m. each evening, petitioning the Lord to heal the sick, protect our front-line health professionals, lead our political leadership with Godly wisdom and sustain His church during this trying time.

I pray that each one of you remain safe and if you need to contact me I can be reached at rbachus@aol.com.

In His Service,

Dr. Reginald E. Bachus

"The District That Advocates Peace"

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