

LIGHT POST

JULY 2020

A KING'S WAY ALLIANCE CHURCH PUBLICATION

ISSUE #16



A NEW BEGINNING

A WORD FROM THE ELDERS, AND WHAT TO EXPECT AS KING'S WAY REOPENS

We are reopening church services at King's Way C&MA Church in order to contribute to the spiritual health of our church body by the edifying of each other in a corporate worship setting.

Promoting spiritual health and physical safety for all will be the main objectives when we resume the worship services at King's Way on June 21st. The health and safety of those attending the services will be determined by how well we use our common sense and follow the rules to help minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In John 15:13, it says: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." In this COVID-19 virus season, the sacrifice of your rights by wearing a mask to protect others is your act of love for those who might otherwise be vulnerable. We hope this sacrifice will not last very long.

RULE #1: Maintain social distancing of 6 ft. minimum between non-house hold members. In the sanctuary, we will be sitting in every other pew by HOUSE HOLD with an empty pew between people in occupied rows. MASKS,

SCARVES or COWBOY BANDANA COVERINGS WILL BE REQUIRED EXCEPT when in those pews.

RULE #2: Avoid touching people or surfaces, as much as possible. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer after you touch stuff. Assume every person or surface could have been exposed. Try to not touch your eyes, nose or mouth after you touch anything.

RULE #3: If you are sick, have symptoms, or been around some one who is sick or has been, within the past two weeks, PLEASE DON'T COME TO CHURCH! We are concerned about those who are asymptomatic carriers of the COVID-19 virus as much as those whom test positive for it and still have it. For those who are not comfortable returning to church yet, we will continue to livestream our services on Facebook and upload them onto YouTube later in the day.

THE SURROUNDING OPERATIONS THE WORSHIP SERVICES: When we resume worship services

on June 21st, there will not be any Sunday School, Nursery, Children's Church or Youth Group meetings. Coffee and other drinks will not be supplied. Children must stay close to those that brought them to church (no wondering around unsupervised).

The drinking fountains will not be operational. Restroom doors may be propped open to allow entry and exit without touching the doors. The use of the pew Bibles and song books should be avoided.

The offering will be collected at the sanctuary doors before and after service. Otherwise just mail it to the church as you have been doing. When we have a communion service, the elders will carry the communion trays themselves and will not pass them as in the past. They will pass by in the empty pews to distribute the elements to each person.

LOOKING AHEAD:

It is too early to tell what we will be doing later this summer for VBS or

the neighborhood picnic as these events will be impacted by the current CDC guidelines.


FINANCIAL OUTLOOK:

While the church continues to not make budget, the good news is that folks have continued to give to the Lord even when we haven't been meeting in the building. We don't have a lot of money, but fortunately, were not spending a lot either. The day is coming though, especially after we call our next pastor, when we will need more. We will step out in faith believing that the Lord will provide, and we are positive that He will.

PASTOR SEARCH:

The elders have met with the District Superintendent and have begun the search process.

Please be in prayer that the enemy does not succeed in using this virus or any response that we may have to it to divide our church body. When we come together Sunday, let it be to unite to praise and worship the Lord and not entertain any thought that could divide us.

 kwachurch.org

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WORSHIP PRACTICE...

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RECOMMENDED FILM:



The Alliance does not specifically endorse any of the resources featured in The Light Post, but they are offered as a means to broaden understanding and perspective on issues of race and justice.



AN OPEN LETTER ON RACISM

THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE ISSUE A STATEMENT DENOUNCING RACISM AND INJUSTICE

The sins of racism and injustice have plagued our nation since its inception. Sadly, we have even witnessed its effects and damage throughout the history of the Church. The devastating loss of lives in the Black community in recent weeks, including the killings of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, has reminded us that injustice still runs rampant in our nation, still strips the Black community of dignity, and still attacks the beauty of the image of God in all humanity. Add to these incidents, the unjust harassment of Christian Cooper while he was birdwatching in Central Park and the killing of Breonna Taylor under suspicious circumstances.

We, the district superintendents and association presidents of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, who give oversight to Alliance churches and ethnic associations in the United States, Puerto Rico, The Bahamas, and Guam, and who function in this movement under the oversight of the vice president for Church Ministries, formally denounce racism, injustice, and any and all systems and actions of any group and/or laws that seek to make themselves racially and/or ethnically superior over any other group of people, including Blacks, Native Americans, Asians, and Hispanics. We stand in staunchest opposition to groups that promote white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and others that avow discrimination and segregation of any kind.

Further, we denounce any acts of violence, oppression, or discrimination in any form against any and all people groups that have been marginalized, oppressed, and/or treated as less than human because of their race, background, or socioeconomic status. As a multiethnic, multicultural, diverse movement, whose founder affirmed the humanity and dignity of all people, we declare today that we will not tolerate any acts of racism and/or injustice that we become aware of in any of the districts and/or associations that we oversee.

We repent of any acts of racism and/or injustice—past or present—that have taken place in any of our districts and/or associations, be they overt or covert. We break off any demonic strongholds that have resulted and remain because of these acts. And, we welcome a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to cleanse our districts and associations and bring a fresh anointing upon each and every one of us, as we declare that we will honor, celebrate, and promote the beauty of the image of God in all of humanity.

It is not just sinful for racism and injustice to exist in our country and/or churches. The Church stands complicit by sitting silent when racism and injustice run rampant in our nation. It is, therefore, the call and the responsibility of the Church to lead the charge in speaking against any and all acts of racism and/or

injustice. We stand firm in urging every church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance that falls under our charge to proclaim salvation through the shed blood of Jesus on the cross, to announce His Kingdom of righteousness and justice, to denounce all forms of racism and injustice, and seek to be the voice of change in our communities, where the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, the outcast, and those who have been the victims of any form of racism or injustice in our communities can find refuge, hope, dignity, and love.

As we have just celebrated Pentecost Sunday, the day on which the Holy Spirit was poured out on the early followers of Jesus, we recognize that Joel's prophecy was fulfilled. In the fulfillment of that prophecy, we also see that the Holy Spirit anointed and blessed the beauty of the diversity of the Kingdom of God. Further, as the early Church grew, so did the diversity of the Church. As a result, we celebrate the beauty in the diversity of God's Kingdom!

Finally, to the members and adherents of our movement that comprise the Black community, we say today that we lament with you. We are listening to you. We seek to be agents of change with you. And we stand alongside of you. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

In the love of Jesus,

Han Young Back, District Superintendent, Korean District	Héctor Belén Jr., District Superintendent, Spanish Central District	Scott R. Borderud, District Superintendent, Southwestern District	Jeffrey P. Brown, District Superintendent, Western Great Lakes District	Harris W. Campbell, Interim District Superintendent, Southeastern District	Lorenzo M. Collado Jr., President, Association of Filipino Churches	Douglas G. Conley, District Superintendent, Mid-Atlantic District
Jorge Cuevas, District Superintendent, Spanish Eastern District	Sarkis A. Diarbi, President, Arabic-Speaking Association	Thomas R. Flanders, District Superintendent, New England District	Thomas George, District Superintendent, Great Lakes District	Siyum Gebretsadik, President, Association of African Churches	Javier Gómez Marrero, District Superintendent, Puerto Rico District	Philip H. Hagar, District Superintendent, Southern District
Marc S. Horace, President, Haitian Association	Nathan D. Howard, District Superintendent, Eastern PA District	Mony Khiev, District Superintendent, Cambodian District	Thach V. Le, District Superintendent, Vietnamese District	Héctor F. Lecaro, President, Spanish Western Association	David B. Linn, District Superintendent, Northeastern District	J. Wayne Spriggs, District Superintendent, Central Pacific District
William W. Malik, District Superintendent, South Pacific District	Jeffrey A. Miller, District Superintendent, Central District	Ronald J. Morrison, President, African-American Pastors, Conserved Women, and Licensed Workers Association	David A. Nagel, District Superintendent, Western PA District	Michael D. Noel, District Superintendent, South Atlantic District	Dennis D. Pust, Interim District Superintendent, Alliance Northwest District	
Jonathan W. Rich, District Superintendent, Midwest District	Mark R. Scaring, District Superintendent, Ohio Valley District	Daniel J. Scarrow, District Superintendent, North Central District	Hendy Siu, President, Association of Montagnard Churches	Robert W. Storey, District Superintendent, Mid-America District	Lantzia C. Thao, District Superintendent, Hmong District	
Kelvin L. Walker, District Superintendent, Metropolitan District	Jonathan A. Wiggins, District Superintendent, Rocky Mountain District	Zane M. Williams, President, Native American Association	Kok C. Wong, President, Chinese Churches Association			

THE ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

BY MATT BRANHAM, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I used to have a pretty skewed view about church leaders.

As far as I knew, they had officially reached "Point B" in their sanctification journey. They supposedly no longer struggle with sin, or get tired, or get discouraged. They can do anything they want because their check is always good with God. They could rest easy knowing their lives will essentially play out like a Hallmark movie.

Then there's me, who's got bigger problems than waiting in line for Starbucks. I have anxiety issues that can paralyze me at any given moment. I can jumpstart a vehicle with the amount of anger deep inside me. I struggle to love people. In fact, I struggle to even love myself. I drink quite a bit. I swear an awful lot. Mostly everything about my life is just a mess. Forget being a leader; I don't even deserve to be called a "Christian."

In recent years, I realized I had a pretty skewed view on God as well. I can actually remember the exact day, because that was when — for some reason — God told me to get a mission trip going. It wasn't through an audible voice, but a distinct feeling within my heart. I may not have even felt it had Jesus not already come into my life, and in that process replace my heart of stone with one of flesh (*Ez. 36:26*). Suffice to say, I was excited and overflowing with joy that God still had wondrous plans in my life.

This is a message for "the rest of us." Because if someone like me can help advance the Kingdom of God, you can too. From what would eventually become a mission trip to Detroit, there were three things that I learned about being an effective leader in Christ. The first one is **there is grace for yesterday's sins and shortcomings** (*Ps. 34:5*).

In 2017, I was an Administrative Assistant at the Summit Christian Church in Akron. The body was without a senior minister at the time, so a few people thought I was the next best person to get a trip going. But I never led a life group up at that point. Nor have I attended seminary. Nor have I even read the Bible from cover to cover. When I went to ask the elders, I was all but certain they would laugh me out of the room.

That wasn't *quite* the case. The elders actually gave me the approval, but I can't say they expressed much optimism. They already decided to commit their resources in finding a new minister and save money wherever they could. Everything had to be self-funded. This meant no fundraising events (*e.g., a car wash or community dinner*) and no donations (*tax reasons*).

But that wouldn't be the only thing discouraging me. As months passed by, I felt Satan trying my faith more and more. It was oddly reassuring in a way, because why pull all the stops on something that God wouldn't allow to begin with? But things really appeared hopeless as the final deadlines drew near. With less than three weeks to go, only three people were on board — and six people were required to make a group happen. The money wasn't there, and the van we were originally going to take ended up being out of commission.

I was nearly about to pull the plug on the whole thing when I received a phone call from a nearby Methodist church. Word apparently got around, and a family of four was ready to commit to the trip.

Then three more people from Summit Christian joined, bringing the final soul count to ten. All remaining balances were soon paid

off, and each of us were able to chip in to rent out a large van from Enterprise.

And just like that, we were off to Detroit. The second thing I learned about being an effective leader in Christ: **There is power to overcome today's temptations** (*Gal. 5:16-17*).

For this trip, we partnered with Motown Mission — a program within the Metropolitan UMC. The staff was very accommodating, and they supplied us with everything we needed for our designated work sites. We worked with Arts and Scraps, a recycling plant that refurbishes materials for children's toys. We also helped the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative (MUF) expand their first agricultural neighborhood. During our free time, we toured a few historic sites and even made a break for the Canadian border.

It was here where I delivered my first sermon, which was based on the Parable of the Potter. And why not? Detroit was the envy of the world many decades ago, and this church we stayed at is a staple of the city's once-prosperous era. It was like a castle — complete with custom tiled floors, ceiling paintings, and a sanctuary that could hold up to eight-thousand people. But this city would soon be plagued by civil unrest, racism, political corruption, and a changing economy. Many people here face broken homes and lives as a result.

But does that mean God has abandoned this place? Absolutely not. People immediately noticed when we were picking up trash, planting vegetables, and repurposing materials right in their own neighborhood. That sweet sight of hope gave way to many God conversations. Just like we were willing to give our time, talents, and

ability to work with these people, God is willing to shape us into a vessel of honor if we let Him.

And I needed to hear God and be corrected where I needed to be, because Satan was pulling no punches with me. Praying became an explicit survival tactic. My anxiety levels were so high, they were producing shockwaves throughout my entire body. I was having frequent nosebleeds and could not sleep at all. I wasn't able to hide my problems on the last day, and I had barely gotten us out of Michigan before asking my wife to drive the rest of the way home.

As it turns out, being a leader in Christ is one of the hardest things you can ever do. If you look at the statistics about these people and depression, burnout, health, spirituality, and longevity — none of them are good. Many leaders are deathly afraid of failing, and they usually only last a few years in their ministry. But here's the third and probably the most important thing I've learned about being an effective leader in Christ: **There is promise of a future that holds no condemnation** (*Rom. 8:1*).

Failure is an inevitability, but those in Christ will not fall. God always has a purpose, even for our shortcomings. I may have been ill-prepared for this trip and the spiritual warfare that followed... but it has led me to read my Bible more, fight my sins more, fix my eyes and follow Jesus more. And I will continue to walk in the Spirit knowing I can do nothing without Him (*John 15:5*).

Anyone with this mindset will be that much more powerful of a tool God can use.

“ HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD;
AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU
BUT TO DO JUSTICE, AND TO LOVE KINDNESS,
AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD? ”

MICAH 6:8 (ESV)

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CHURCH REHEATS EIGHT-WEEK OLD COFFEE

ANDERSON, MO — As stay-at-home orders finally come to an end, churches across the country have begun to welcome their congregations back. For some houses of worship, this means laying out the proverbial red carpet and polishing their tithing boxes. Grace-Life Church in Anderson, Missouri, is taking a different approach.

When their church doors closed, some of the church's board members saw it as an opportunity to invest in some overdue repairs and upgrades. But Pastor Cecil Hall stood

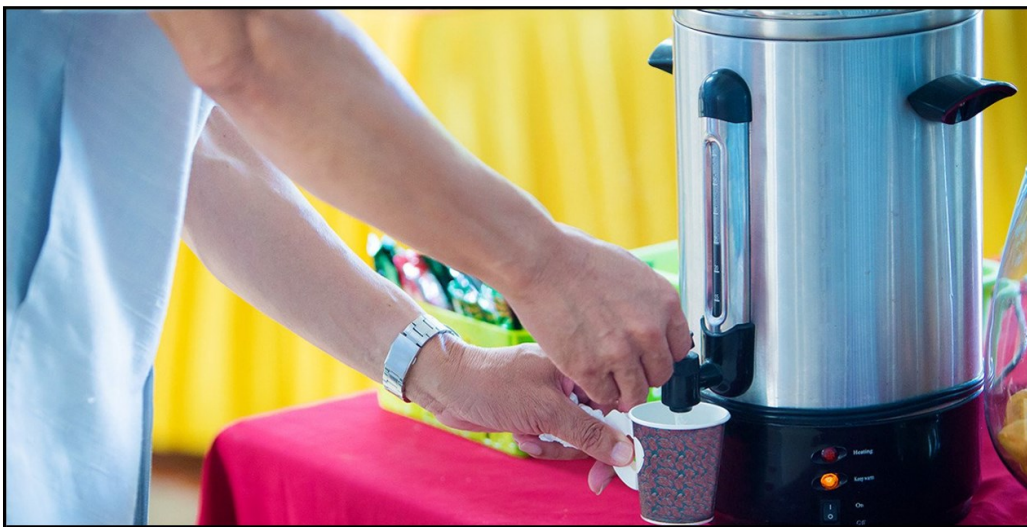
firm. "Our congregation has been away so long. When they walk through those doors, we want them to feel a return to the way things were," says Pastor Hall. "That's why it's

imperative that everything from the pencil stab marks in the pew cushions, to the styrofoam cup stuffed with Sweet-n-Low packets, to the '90s floral decor is exactly as it

was before the lockdown. And, according to a tradition that is almost as old as the coffee we're serving, there will also be hot, stale java waiting for them, as expected."

During a church staff meeting, a newer member suggested purchasing new coffee for the upcoming Sunday service, prompting uncontrollable laughter from the room. Several elders were quick to point out that they still had plenty of fresh coffee they could heat up, sitting in the percolators from eight weeks ago, when they held their last pre-corona service.

Pastor Hall also plans to continue using the International Delight creamer capsules that expired in 2009.



IN OTHER SATIRE:

Joel Osteen Warns It Is Far Too Soon To Reopen The Bible

CDC Admits They've Been Looking Through Microscope Upside Down This Whole Time



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