



BAPTIST CONVENTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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"IMPACTING LIVES"

28 May 2020

To the Pastors, Churches and Regions

Dear Beloved in Christ

Subject: COVID 19 information and update

Greetings to the Saints and blessings to all of you. We bless the Lord for your health, strength and resilience during this difficult time. We are praying for the families that have lost their loved ones.

1. Opening of Church Sunday Services

On Tuesday, 26th May 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa granted to requests from church organisations to allow believers to congregate; and for church leaders to be classified as providing essential services so pastors could continue with emotional, psychological and spiritual support in communities.

The BCSA is concerned about the consequences and costs of opening Churches at this time. The risk is too high as infection and death cases rise daily. We therefore recommend churches not to hurry into opening Church doors. We advise that a prayerful and in-depth discussion should take place in our congregations, and responsible leadership exercised. The health and safety of people is a biblical mandate covered in the words: "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). We can't put our neighbours lives in danger. The BCSA is waiting for the publication of the updated regulations to reflect the commitments raised in the President's address. These will give more detailed guidance and conditions on what will be required. In the meantime, those who seek to open Churches should proceed cautiously and responsibly. We have enclosed a BCSA HEALTH GUIDELINES for Churches that seek to operate.

Lastly, the opening of Churches is optional, not a MUST. Therefore no one should be pressured to open or close the Church, even to attend or not to attend.

2. BCSA Covid-19 relief

The BCSA has set up a relief fund for struggling pastors and churches (guidelines for funding will follow). A seed fund of R70 000.00 has been set aside from BCSA coffers, we therefore encourage everyone, individuals, churches, departments, ministries and regions to contribute towards this fund. Banking details are as follows:

OFFICERS: Acting Secretary General Dr T Jentile, President: Rev. SB Ndebele, Deputy President: Dr T Jentile, First Vice President: Rev MC Serokolo, Treasurer: Rev. ME Makena, Minute Secretary: Mrs. T. Semanya

BCSA Project Account

ABSA Bank **9049290708.**
Branch Code **630005**
Reference **CovidRelief: Name**

Announcement:

- ❖ All BCSA events are suspended, national, departmental etc
- ❖ Annual assembly will be held in December for one day subject to the state of the country
- ❖ Kindly forward all affiliation fees to the BCSA
- ❖ We still encourage churches to send their tithe of tithes, regardless of the amount.

Prayer items:

- ✓ The Government: we pray for the government during this difficult.
- ✓ We continue to pray for those infected and affected by Covid-19 infections and deaths.
- ✓ We pray for the stimulation the economy: Jobs on the line, and many of God's people who are starving.
- ✓ Pray for our Churches to care for their members and the poorest of the poor
- ✓ We pray for the BCSA Home in Zuurbekom, SOWETO, we pray for generous giving.
- ✓ Pray for the NEC
- ✓ Pray for resuscitation of our churches.

NB : Kindly receive the attached

- BCSA health guidelines
- BCSA Financials

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, to whom be the glory. We love you.

Keep safe!

Yours truly,



Dr Thembelani Jentile (PhD, UFS)
Acting Secretary General