

Updated on 21 Feb 2020

Dear Agapians,

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation in Singapore, you may have friends and loved ones wondering whether it is a good idea to still come to church gatherings. Some among us may even be wondering whether Agape should continue with our regular Sunday services, especially given the fact that some churches have actually cancelled their Sunday services.

As I mentioned last Sunday, different churches may arrive at different decisions based on varying reasons. Regardless of the decision, we know that each church in Singapore seeks to do its best for God, for its members, and for the nation. For us in Agape, we find ourselves especially reminded through the preached Word this season that Christ is our greatest treasure. His work on the cross for our salvation enables us to declare with boldness that: *"Fear is gone, and hope is sure, Christ is mine forevermore!"*

We know that Jesus who has overcome sin and death for us is more than able to deliver our church and our nation from the threat of this virus. As people who find refuge in Him, we do not have to fear for our lives; instead, we can live by faith, knowing that our lives are hidden with Christ on high.

In a time like this in Singapore, many Christians find themselves reminded of what the author of Hebrews exhorted the Christians in the early church as they underwent persecution and trials. He told them that as believers, they should not give up meeting one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). Clearly, based on that exhortation, there is a similar value for us today to continue coming despite the risks and challenges.

Each time we meet together as a church family, we are:

- 1) expressing our faith and trust in Jesus
- 2) encouraging one another in our walk with God
- 3) spurring one another to love and good works

While we can certainly still do all of the above in some ways while physically away from one another, it is God's desire that His people do so by coming together, as much as we can. With this understanding (unless otherwise instructed by the authorities), the elders in our church have decided that we should continue our Sunday services and all our cell group meetings, with the appropriate safety precautions in place. We do so with the recognition that these gatherings are essential elements in our church life as the people of God.

Let's continue to come together as a church on Sundays and in our cell groups to worship God in fellowship with one another. Let's continue to cry out in prayer to God to deliver Singapore from this virus. Let's seek to meet the needs of others, seizing every opportunity to do good and proclaim the gospel, so that God's light can shine brightly in this time of darkness.

Regards
Pastor GL

Sunday Services and Cell Groups will continue

Upcoming church events	
Church membership classes (8, 15 Mar)	Proceed as planned
Prayer Ignite! (Last Tuesday of every month)	Proceed as planned
Christian Education classes (various dates)	Proceed as planned
Agape Guys' Ministry/Women of Agape small group activities (various dates)	Proceed as planned
Women of Agape Seminar (21 Mar)	Postponed to a later date
Agape Guys' Ministry Event (28 Mar)	Postponed to a later date
Annual General Meeting (29 Mar)	Proceed as planned
Church Camp (18-21 Jun)	Proceed as planned. Registration details to be announced.

For the Sunday service and cell group (as well as the other church events), please practise social responsibility by doing the following:

- ✓ If you are unwell with fever > 38°C, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath, please stay home. If you cannot come for the Sunday service, please watch the live stream of our Sunday Service online through the Agape website or the Agape Facebook page.
- ✓ If you are under quarantine or stay-home notice (SHN), please refrain from attending any church events.
- ✓ If you are in close contact with a suspected or confirmed case, do let your leaders know. We would love to support you in prayer and other ways possible in this time

As a church, we have the following safety precautions in place for Sunday Services:

- ❖ Temperature checks will be conducted at the ground level for everyone coming for the Sunday service. Anyone with a temperature of > 38°C will be asked to see a doctor and rest at home instead.
- ❖ Everyone attending the service is required to fill in a contact tracing sheet. This will enable us to assist the authorities in contact tracing should any issue arise.
- ❖ Antibacterial hand wash is available at all our toilets.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer is available at various points in and outside of the worship hall.