



First Evangelical Church of San Gabriel Valley

聖迦失羅省基督教會

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A Letter from Pastor Joshua to Our Church Family

When Will We Reopen Our In-Person Sunday Services?

May 28, 2020

Dear FECSGV and HOA Family,

On Tuesday, May 26, the County of Los Angeles Health Officer issued a **Revised Order** entitled "REOPENING SAFER AT WORK AND IN THE COMMUNITY FOR CONTROL OF COVID-19 – MOVING THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES THROUGH STAGE 2 OF CALIFORNIA'S PANDEMIC RESILIENCE ROADMAP ("publichealth.lacounty.gov"). Under the Revised Order, **attending in-person faith-based services** is now permitted but with the following restrictions:

"Attending in-person faith-based services (is permitted), provided that the gathering of congregants is limited to the lower of 25% of the total maximum occupancy (or occupant load) assigned for that building on its Certificate of Occupancy, or a maximum of 100 people. Faith-based organizations holding in-person services must follow the Department of Public Health Places of Worship Protocols" (see Paragraph 15, item # h on page 7).

At FECSGV, that would mean that our Main Sanctuary could serve a maximum of 100 people, and our Chapels and Youth Center could each serve 25 people. For HOA, the VCC sanctuary could serve about 50 people. In other words, the majority of our typical 800 Sunday Service attenders must stay home. That won't work for us!

While we're all eager to gather again for worship, our **Elder Board** has decided, for many important reasons, that **FECSGV and HOA will be patient and wait for better conditions before resuming our in-person Sunday services.**

For adherence to this Revised Order, the church will continue to implement the following measures until further notice: (1) **Sunday services** : Online, (2) **Sunday School and Equipping Classes, Small Group Gatherings, Prayer Meetings**: Online, (3) **Youth and Children Ministries**: Online, (4) **Church Staff**: work remotely, (5) **Online giving and Giving through mail**: please follow instructions on the church's website, (6) **Church campus**: While our church remains open, with church office and ministries continuing as usual through virtual and remote operations, for security reasons, the church campus will be temporarily closed.

The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic will not be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39). We may have closed our door, but the church has never closed. Why? Because the church isn't a building, a program, or an event. The church is a people, a family, united to share the love of Jesus Christ. FECSGV and HOA have

never been “closed” during these past 11 weeks! On the contrary, we’ve been doing MORE in our communities than before. In just 11 weeks since the lockdown began in Los Angeles:

- **Attendance** in our Online Sunday services, Sunday School/Equipping classes, small group gatherings and prayer meetings have increased remarkably.
- **Donation of Face Masks and PPE:** Although facing economic impacts, some of our brothers and sisters still chose to share Jesus’s love with community and neighbors. They have raised funds to buy surgical masks and PPE to support hospitals in the disaster areas in China. When the pandemic became more serious in US, they donated 25,300 surgical masks and 600 pieces of PPE to hospitals, courts, police stations and neighbors in the community. Our people from House of Abundance (HOA) purchased thousands of N95 masks to support hospitals in Brooklyn, New York, and in LA. They also donated face masks to help other churches.
- **Food Delivery:** Our people are giving mutual support to each other, taking care of families who are in need through food delivery.
- **Wuhan/China Relief:** The church has collected a total of \$ 12,466 for Wuhan Relief and has donated it to support World Vision’s Coronavirus Emergency Response in China through FECA.
- **2020 World Vision Global 6K for Water Going Virtual:** Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our people joined FECA to participate in this project on May 16 to raise a total of \$7,731 to support World Vison’s global 6K for Water for poor and needy families in Africa.
- **Food Drive for the Elderly:** We distributed 165 bags of grocery, milk, eggs, yogurt and canned food in the past two weeks to 50 seniors in Rosemead City. We greatly appreciate your participation and generous donations.
- **Blood Drive:** due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a shortage of blood supply. We have partnered with American Red Cross to have “3” blood drives at our Youth Center in April and May. The 4th blood drive is scheduled on July 6.
- **A 30-Day Guide to Pray for Muslim:** Muslims around the world mark Ramadan from April 23 to May 23. As Muslims seek after God during Ramadan, we mobilized our people to pray that Muslims meet Jesus in a special way!

The vision of our church is to obey Jesus’ Great Commission and Great Commandment. Our motivation for every decision is always LOVE and FAITH, not fear. So be patient! And keep focused on God’s purposes in our life!

*“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity,
but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”*

~2 Timothy 1:7~

Love in Christ,



Joshua Cheng
Senior Pastor
Chairperson of the Board of Elders