

PROCLAMATION

A CORPORATE CLERGY CALL TO PRAYER & FASTING FOR OHIOANS IN THE WAKE OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic, with nearly 3,000 deaths and tens of thousands of cases occurring in the disease's epicenter of China, (1) now increasing thirteen-fold during the first two weeks of March 2020, (2) triggering the Dow Jones on March 12th, 2020 to suffer the largest stock market drop since the 1987 "Black Monday" collapse (3), and resulting in the cancellation of schools and numerous cultural events across the nation (4) and.....

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency and called for a National Day of Prayer (5) on March 15, 2020 saying: "We are a Country throughout history that has looked to GOD for protection and strength in times like these," and.....

WHEREAS, following three confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in Cuyahoga County, Governor Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency, (6) suspended elections, and stated there are at least 100,000 Ohioans with the Coronavirus, with the undiagnosed cases projected to double every six days (7) and.....

WHEREAS, the Bible is a leading source of modern health knowledge (8) referring to the practices of quarantine (Leviticus 13:21), personal hygiene (Leviticus 15), and the concept of disease vectors (Leviticus 15), and has also inspired leading medical pioneers like Dr. Benjamin Rush, Dr. John Snow, and Dr. Louis Pasteur, and.....

WHEREAS, weeks following Governor DeWine's oath of office taken on nine Bibles on January 15th, 2019 and a declaration of 2019 as the "Year of the Bible" by north central Ohio clergymen from one hundred and fifty congregations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported minimal influenza cases in Ohio (9) despite rampant cases nationwide and.....

WHEREAS, a countywide observance in north central Ohio of the 2019 National Day of Prayer commemorated the 170th anniversary of historical answered prayer when cases of Cholera dramatically plummeted after nationwide corporate calls to prayer and repentance during pandemic conditions, (10) and.....

WHEREAS, twenty-seven north central Ohio clergymen illustrated that spiritual health can affect biological outcome by forwarding a 2016 Harvard study to area medical providers in the Fall of 2016 (11) which discussed the correlation between church attendance and the decreased risk of both cardiovascular mortality and cancer mortality, (12) and one-year later two of those clergymen publicly commented to local media (13) on another study finding church attendance reduced mortality (14) and.....

WHEREAS, eighty-three north central Ohio clergymen called for a day of prayer and fasting after General Motors tragically announced the closure of one of the area's large-scale stamping plants during the 2008-2009 recession, (15) and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as leading clergymen from (120) congregations across north central Ohio, we are calling Ohioans to a season of corporate prayer and fasting, especially during the zenith of the Holy Week and Passover observances from Sunday, April 5th thru Thursday, April 16th. We stand in solidarity as a faith community during these extraordinary times being fully convinced in the words of Psalm 91 that only the Most High God will be our refuge and fortress and will deliver us from the perilous pestilence. As the text says:

“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side; and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.”

REFERENCES

- (1) “Estimating Risk for Death from 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease, China, January–February 2020,” by Kenji Mizumoto and Gerardo Chowell, Center for Disease Control & Prevention, Volume 26, Number 6—June 2020, https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/6/20-0233_article
- (2) “WHO declares coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic,” by Zachary Halaschak, Washington Examiner, March 11, 2020, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/who-declares-coronavirus-outbreak-a-global-pandemic>
- (3) “Dow closes down nearly 10 percent in biggest decline since 1987,” by Thornton McEnery and Noah Manskar, New York Post, March 12, 2020, <https://nypost.com/2020/03/12/dow-closes-down-nearly-10-percent-in-biggest-decline-since-1987/>
- (4) Ibid. (Page 1)
- (5) “Trump declares Sunday a National Day of Prayer amid coronavirus crisis,” by Louis Casiano, Fox News, March 13, 2020, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-sunday-national-day-of-prayer>
- (6) “Cleveland Has Three Cases of Coronavirus, Gov. DeWine Says, While Declaring State of Emergency in Ohio,” by Jason M. Reynolds, The Ohio Star, March 10, 2020, <https://theohiostar.com/2020/03/10/cleveland-has-3-cases-of-coronavirus-gov-dewine-says-while-declaring-state-of-emergency-in-ohio/>
- (7) “Gov. DeWine: 100,000 believed to have coronavirus in Ohio, number projected to double every six days,” by Julia Musto, Fox News, March 13, 2020, <https://www.foxnews.com/media/governor-dewine-100k-believed-to-have-cv-in-ohio-number-will-double-every-six-days>
- (8) “Modern Medicine? It’s not so modern!,” by David Wise, Answers in Genesis, December 1, 1994, <https://answersingenesis.org/human-body/modern-medicine/>
- (9) “2019 Year of the Bible” saw great advances in Buckeye Bible Belt,” Frontlines Ohio, January 16, 2019, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2020/01/14/2019-year-of-the-bible-saw-great-advances-in-the-buckeye-bible-belt/>
- (10) “National Day of Prayer & Thanksgiving goes viral in Mansfield,” Frontlines Ohio, May 15, 2019, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2019/05/15/national-day-of-prayer-thanksgiving-goes-viral-in-mansfield/>
- (11) “Health officials enlightened on link between attending church & improved health,” Frontlines Ohio, December 1, 2016, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2016/12/01/27-clergy-inform-healthcare-providers-of-link-between-church-attendance-health/>
- (12) The twenty- year study of 75,000 nurses found that those who attended religious services once per week or more had decreased risk of both cardiovascular mortality (27 percent) and cancer mortality (21 percent). According to the senior author of the study, Mr. Tyler VanderWeele, professor of epidemiology at Harvard, “Part of the benefit seems to be that attending religious services increases social support, discourages smoking, decreases depression, and helps people develop a more optimistic or hopeful outlook on life.”
- (13) “Local clergy say new study shows attending church can be antidotal,” Frontlines Ohio, December 8, 2017, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2017/12/08/local-clergy-say-new-study-shows-attending-church-can-be-antidotal/>
- (14) “Church Attendance, Allostatic Load and Mortality in Middle-Aged Adults,” that attending religious meetings where groups of people gather to worship can improve health, especially for age groups between 40 and 65. This age group reduced their risk for mortality by 50 percent, while those who did not attend a worship service were twice as likely to die prematurely. The study included 5,000 persons of varying socioeconomic status and concluded that spiritual health appears to matter in respect to biological outcomes
- (15) “Richland County pastors plan day of prayer for GM,” by Jamie Kinton, Mansfield News Journal, June 12, 2009

List of endorsing clergymen representing (120) one hundred and twenty North Central Ohio congregations

Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community
Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare Church
Pastor Don Wilson, Mansfield Faith Assembly
Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Community
Pastor James Hill, Paradise Freewill Baptist
Pastor Larry Hulver, New Liberty Baptist
Pastor Jeff Coggins, Adario United Methodist
Pastor Jody Odom, Ambassadors for Christ
Pastor Jeff Robertson, Fusion Church
Pastor Earl Eiklor, Cornerstone Freewill Baptist
Pastor Rich Rader, Mayflower Congregational
Pastor Joe Beran, Berlin United Methodist
Pastor Clint Zeigler, Sovereign Christ Church
Pastor Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community
Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby Church of GOD
Pastor Dan Zediker, Mission Point Mansfield
Pastor Troy Wooten, Christian Life Center
Pastor Russell Stanford, All GOD's Believers
Pastor Matt Pond, First Freewill Baptist
Pastor Layton Broom, Paradise Hill United Methodist
Pastor Sylvester Ginn, Hesus Agape Fellowship
Pastor Christopher Thomas, Diamond Hills Baptist
Pastor Tom Roepke, Linden Road Presbyterian
Pastor Paul Lintern, Oakland Lutheran
Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Baptist Temple
Pastor Mike Stine, Clear Fork Alliance
Pastor Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren
Pastor Joe Smith, Westside Baptist
Pastor Randy Raynes, Mansfield Fellowship Baptist
Pastor Bill Howell, Shiloh Messiah House Prayer
Pastor Mark Hamilton, Providence Church
Pastor J.C. Church, Victory in Truth Ministries
Pastor Ron Smals, Woodville Grace Brethren
Pastor John Temple, Loudonville Trinity Community
Pastor Kevin Evans, Ganges Liberty Baptist
Pastor Clyde Kerby, Ministries of Hope Healing
Pastor Terry Garrett, Fusion Lexington Community
Pastor James Spencer, Peoples' Baptist
Pastor Floyd Allen, Philippian Community
Pastor Glen Phillips, Hillside First Church of GOD
Pastor Howdie Burnette, Perrysville Baptist
Pastor Dink Porter, First Church of Open Bible
Pastor Joe Maggelet, Ashland Fellowship Christian Athletes
Pastor George Lewis, Shelby Temple of GOD
Pastor James Marshall, Ganges Community
Pastor Scott Maglott, Lexington Church Nazarene
Pastor Jeff Coggins, Ashland Emmanuel United Methodist
Pastor Steve Schag, Shelby Calvary Baptist
Pastor Bill Lewis, Butler Connection Church
Rabbi Bob Bauer, Beit El Elyon Congregation
Pastor Joe Beran, Batementown United Methodist
Pastor Brian Phillips, New Beginnings Freewill Baptist
Pastor Steve Burkhalter, Mansfield Potter's House
Pastor Clarence Sanderfer, New Life Baptist
Pastor Dan Baer, Mansfield Gospel Assembly
Pastor Anthony Cooper, Shelby Life Church
Pastor Chad Hayes, Mansfield Caeserea Baptist
Pastor John Bouquet, Savannah Bethel Baptist
Pastor Gary Grant, Crestline Church God Prophecy
Pastor Darrin Thurber, Seventh Day Adventist
Pastor Art Kennard, Maranatha Christian
Rabbi William Hallbrook, Sar Shalom Center
Pastor Paul Lintern, Mansfield Southside Christian
Pastor Mark Meyer, Lexington Gracepoint Sanctuary
Pastor El Akuchie, Godsfield House of Prayer
Pastor Mike Rose, Hope on the Hill Chapel
Pastor Mike Corwin, Bucyrus Methodist
Pastor Larry Hill, Bethel Freewill Baptist
Pastor Denny Finnegan First Evangelical Presbyterian,
Pastor Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road Church GOD
Pastor Paul Larson Mansfield First English Lutheran
Pastor Robert Obrien, Apostolic Faith Assembly
Pastor Tim Davis, Newville Baptist
Pastor Keith Carlisle, Ontario First Wesleyan
Pastor Rick Wiseman, Promised Land Fellowship
Pastor David Bates, Unity Freewill Baptist
Pastor David Mahon, Galion Apostolic Assembly
Pastor David Ferrell, Mansfield Holiness Chapel
Pastor Robert Bird, Perrysville Vermillion Baptist
Pastor Aaron Williams, Maddox Memorial COGIC

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Pastor Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD	Pastor Chris Spencer, Crestline Grace Baptist
Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship	Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center
Pastor Patrick Bailey, North Bend of the Brethren	Pastor Steve Brenneman, Awakening Christian Ctr.
Pastor Matt Smith, Love Action Church	Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal
Pastor Mark Abel, Southview Grace Brethren	Pastor Bruce Copley, Faith Chapel
Pastor Paul Matthewson, Maranatha Bible Baptist	Pastor Mark Cobb, Mansfield Providence Baptist
Pastor Les Farley, Irresistible Church	Pastor Mike Wilson, Lincoln Heights Baptist
Pastor James Garrett, Ontario Christian Fellowship	Pastor Dave Parsons, Zion's Refuge Baptist
Pastor Louis Blevins, Latter Rain COGIC	Pastor Rob Ratcliff, North Woodbury Freewill Baptist
Pastor Ray Cochran Jr., Oasis of Love Church	Pastor Brian Hall, Ontario Abundant Life Tabernacle
Pastor Travis McKenzie, Compassion Freewill Baptist	Pastor David Guild, Mansfield Foursquare
Pastor Ronnie Conn, Elm Street Freewill Baptist	Pastor Lester Chamber, Shelby Church of the Nazarene
Pastor Bryan Schatzinger, Calvary Chapel	Pastor Mark Pierce, Church Requel
Pastor Rich Hurles, Plymouth LifePoint Church	Pastor Henry Bradley, New Community Temple COGIC
Pastor Merle Stewart, Bethesda Fellowship	Pastor Kelly Meckes, Mansfield Friends Church
Pastor Rick Maddox, Galion Alliance Church	Pastor Clinton Hearn, Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist
Pastor Ron Kosa, Living Word Church	Pastor Russ Smith, Shiloh Wesleyan
Pastor Steve Baldrige, Rome Community Church	Pastor Aaron Boggs, Fredericktown Free Will Baptist
Pastor Michael Futrell, Christ Community Evangelical	Pastor Jerry O'Brien, Faith Harvest Fellowship
Pastor William Jordan, Faith Temple COGIC	Pastor Dan Rebon, Bucyrus Father's Heart Healing Center