

# Coronavirus Response

A LETTER FROM SHAWN WINTERS  
MARCH 12, 2020

There's a lot of buzz going around about COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus. Much of the hype is fear based. Fear of the Lord is a good thing. Fear of the future is not. As Christians, we put our trust and hope in God and in his love for us.

2 Timothy 1:7 says, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

There are 364 other verses about fear in the Bible, so we know how powerful fear can be. And that's why God has given us so many verses to combat fear in his Word! We want to acknowledge you may be afraid for you, your family, or your future, and remind you that your safety and security are very important to us.

These are things YOU can do, and things WE are doing at this time.

## REPLACING FEAR WITH FACTS

Experts from around the world are striving to understand the illness and curb its spread. Let's pray that they are successful and that the vulnerable will be protected and the sick healed.

We are planning Phase 1, 2 and 3 responses and if the threat increases, we will be ready.

Remember, sensationalism sells, and we have to keep that in mind as we listen to new reports daily. So I encourage you to stay calm!

## PREVENTION & CONTAINMENT

- Wash. Your. Hands.
- Stay home when you are sick. Keep your kids home when they are sick.
- Avoid hand shaking and hugging—social distance is wise.
- We have added cleaning stations at strategic points around our campuses—volunteers, please use them.
- We are relying on our "sick kids" policies and procedures that were already in place for staff and volunteers working with kids and student ministries.

## MITIGATE

We are monitoring how this affects our church and our community. We are encouraging good hygiene, ensuring safe food service, and cleaning our campuses with greater diligence.

We have assembled a task force of staff and medical emergency response personnel to address concerns around Coronavirus, and to stay on top of the CDC reports and MN Department of Health for best practices.

Churches on both coasts are already dealing with COVID-19, and are freely sharing their tips on how to mitigate.

## COMMUNICATION GOING FORWARD

Clear communication is key, and we will share updates with you as available.

**Keep an eye on our website for new information.** There will be a Pop Up for any changes in services and programs that affect the majority of the congregation.

**Watch your email** for info from Calvary Church—either from me, or from specific ministry pastors and directors regarding updates on specific programs or events.

## SUPPORT CALVARY

Self-quarantine if you are sick or have recently traveled overseas or to a known-outbreak area.

Continue to support Calvary Church financially, so we can keep doing ministry, and be ready to respond to those in need! Consider giving online (instructions at **calvarychurch.us/give/give**) or mailing in your contributions.

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST, PRAY

Thanks for your prayers as we lead and care for our congregation and community. Pray for each other, that God's peace would rule in our hearts. Pray for wisdom for Calvary Church leadership teams, and for the task force.

And here's a final word from Psalm 112:7, *"They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD."* Let us be steadfast in our trust of God now—and always.

Thank you, Calvary Church, for being a community that cares! I am humbled to serve this congregation.

In Him,

**Shawn Winters**  
Senior Pastor

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