

Dear Met church family,

We are so grateful that we were able to gather together in a “virtual” way on Sunday for our service. It was a joy and an encouragement to be able to share in that time. We know that a few had difficulty connecting to the service (at least initially); our technical team is hard at work to reduce those difficulties for this coming Sunday.

Since Sunday, our staff team has been developing a strategy to take our whole ministry platform digital, and some of those ministries have already begun. There was a tremendous buzz in the virtual space of METYouth last night, with a flood of interaction and chatter filling the virtual room! Technology is a great blessing to us in this season, and we are thankful that so much ministry is continuing without losing momentum.

We are very mindful that this is a difficult time for so many people on so many different levels in our church family and wider community. We want you to know that we are here and we want to help and support you in any way we can. We have launched a program to facilitate grocery delivery for our seniors and those who are particularly vulnerable because of underlying health concerns. At the same time, we have prepared a web access point to submit requests for prayer and for pastoral calls and virtual “visits”. We are also working with our benevolent team to make funds available to those in the church family who are facing urgent need.

We recognize that communication is more important now than ever. To make it easy for you to access our ministries and our team, we are developing a single web page that will house key information and access to all the resources mentioned above: www.metbiblechurch.ca/virtualchurch. Rather than send frequent emails, we plan to keep this page updated with news – so be sure to check in regularly.

Some may have noticed that I have not sought to make social media a key component of my ministry up until now. I have done that simply because I have sensed that it can have certain pitfalls for pastors and churches. However, in this season, I see the value of social media tools for sharing news and updates with the church family. So, I have taken the step of launching a Twitter feed to help us stay in touch in these unusual days: www.twitter.com/drjgriffiths. I hope to give updates on ministry and some words of encouragement from time to time. Please check in there and follow the feed if you would like to do so.

A number will have heard the very sad news that Debbie Turner, a former member of our staff team, has gone home to be with the Lord early this morning. We are so thankful to the Lord for Debbie – for her life and service and testimony of faith. Please remember her family in your prayers in the coming days.

You will have seen yesterday’s note from Pastor Randy with the very disappointing news that one promising line of cancer treatment is not going to be suitable for him. Please continue to pray for Randy and Evelyn and their wider family as they process this news and turn to the Lord for comfort and help.

I think this is a season where the Lord is teaching us afresh to pray, and teaching us afresh to find our refuge and security in Him. Wonderfully, He is worthy of all our trust and confidence: "...fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isa. 41:10)

May God bless and keep you,

Jonathan Griffiths
Lead Pastor