



# Coronavirus

## Oak Hills Church Response

### Dear Oak Hills Church Family,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our plans in response to the current coronavirus situation. As most of you are aware, the mayor and the City of San Antonio have announced a public health emergency and a ban on any gatherings of 500 persons or more. While we understand churches may be technically exempt from this order, the mayor and his office are strongly encouraging all organizations, including churches, to comply. Oak Hills Church leadership desires to support and affirm our city leaders, therefore, we have determined to do the following:

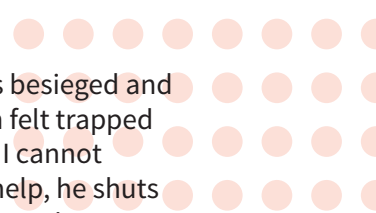
- All on-campus weekend worship gatherings are suspended until further notice, beginning this weekend. We will continue providing an online worship experience from our Crownridge location at regular service times: Saturday, 5 PM and Sunday, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM. Those who attend our Alamo Ranch or Westside campuses may be able to log into Facebook and enjoy Sam or Miguel's teaching via Facebook Live.
- All on-campus ministry activities at all of our locations have been suspended regardless of size for the foreseeable future (Bible studies and classes, Preschool classes, etc.)
- Ongoing updates will be provided through the Oak Hills Church website, social media, and app.


One could hardly imagine a more anxious time. The word "coronavirus" was unknown to most of us a few weeks ago. Now we know it all too well. We urge you, ask the Lord to help you manage your anxiety. Learn a lesson from the Prophet Jeremiah:

Talk about a person caught in a storm! "I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of [God's] wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long" (Lam. 3:1-3 RSV).

Jeremiah was depressed, as gloomy as a giraffe with a sore throat. Jerusalem was under siege, his nation under duress. His world collapsed like a sandcastle in a typhoon. He faulted God for his horrible, emotional distress. He also blamed God for his physical ailments. "He [God] has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones."

His body ached. His heart was sick. His faith was puny. "[God] has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation" (vs. 5-6). Jeremiah felt trapped like a man at a dead-end street. "He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has put heavy chains on me; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has blocked my ways with hewn stones, he has made my paths crooked (vs. 7-9).





Jeremiah could detail the virus of his day. But then he realized how fast he was sinking. So he shifted his gaze. “But to this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him’” (vs. 22-24).

“But to this I call to mind...” Depressed, Jeremiah altered his thoughts, shifted his attention. He turned his eyes away from the waves and looked into the wonder of God. He quickly recited a quintet of promises. (I can envision him tapping these out on the five fingers of his hand.)

1. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
2. His mercies never come to an end.
3. They are new every morning.
4. Great is thy faithfulness.
5. The Lord is my portion.

The challenge didn’t cease, but his discouragement did.

**Here is the lesson**

- Feed your fears and your faith will starve.
- Feed your faith and your fears will.

Now more than ever, we need a timely message from God’s Word. Let’s continue to feed our faith as we worship together online this weekend. Let’s also look for opportunities to live on mission by encouraging hearts and guiding people to set their hearts on Jesus, who is our hope. We will diligently monitor the ongoing developments of the coronavirus through the Center for Disease Control and the City of San Antonio.

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