

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Board of General Superintendents

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17 April 2020

Dear Pastors,

We want to begin this letter by saying a simple thank you. Despite an Easter Sunday unlike any other of our lifetimes, resurrection hope was proclaimed from empty sanctuaries into thousands of homes around the world. We watched with great joy and appreciation the many creative expressions of Nazarene pastors and worship leaders announcing the good news of the risen Christ with the blessing of the Holy Spirit. In a few short weeks, many of you have completely altered your way of doing and being the church. You have worked very hard and the Lord is honoring your consecrated efforts.

We remind you that while Easter is a special day on our calendar, the reality of Easter is ongoing and unchanging. Actually, every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. The Word through whom all things were *made* is now the Word through whom all things are *remade*. As the apostle Paul, and others, would say:

- Where the first Adam miserably failed, the second Adam marvelously triumphed.
- Where the first Adam ruined creation, the second Adam rescued creation.
- Where the first Adam brought death, the second Adam brought life.

On the evening of his resurrection, the risen Christ came to where his disciples were. They were all in a room with the doors locked for fear of their lives. Jesus appeared to them and proved he was alive. He showed them the wounds on his hands and his side and said: "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you!" (John 20:21) In other words: "I have finished the work the Father sent *me* to do. Now I am sending *you* to finish the work begun in me." With that he breathed on them the breath of God: "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22)

When Jesus was raised from the dead, God's eternal rescue operation was implemented. In that way, Easter is the launching pad of God's new creation project that continues today through mission outposts we call local churches. We do not work because our salvation is incomplete — we work because our salvation is accomplished and the new creation has begun. The resurrection story continues and we get to be a part of it.

GLOBAL MINISTRY CENTER


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Thank you again for being such good shepherds to the flock you serve. We are filled with hope and feel privileged to partner with you in this ministry of reconciliation.


Grace and peace to you all,

Board of General Superintendents

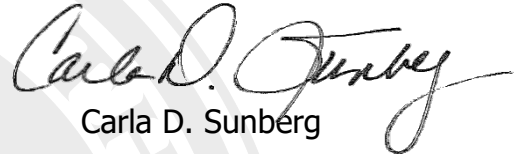

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