29 May 2020

Dear Pastors and Leaders,

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out upon the disciples, and the Church was born in the city of Jerusalem. On Sunday, we will again celebrate this historical event in a year when we have experienced the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in tangible ways outside the walls of church buildings. Because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Church has never been and can never be closed. The promise of the Father has been visible through the ways you have ministered in this time of crisis.

This past week, the Board of General Superintendents (BGS) gathered via Zoom for our regularly scheduled quarterly business meetings. Like all of you, there are many details to work through as we make plans for the future. Recognizing that we regularly face changes, we met with our Senior Leadership Team (General Treasurer, General Secretary, Global Missions Director, and the Global Ministry Center (GMC) Chief Administrative Officer) to work toward best practices for meeting new challenges. Additionally, the leaders of NMI, NYI, SDMI, and Global Education shared the ways that each of their areas of oversight are intentionally ministering in this unique season.

While some areas are opening up for travel and gatherings, the austerity measures for the GMC continue, restricting travel except for jurisdictional purposes. The BGS will not be traveling internationally through the remainder of 2020. In the meantime, we continue to meet regularly with global leaders and participate in services and gatherings by electronic means.

The pain of the COVID-19 crisis continues as we lose members and loved ones. The center of the pandemic has moved to South America, where Brazil is currently the epicenter. Our brothers and sisters are suffering. Please, remember to lift them to the Lord in prayer. NCM remains on the frontlines helping those in greatest need.
Unless there is urgent information to share, we will now be sending communication every other week. It is a blessing to partner with all of you as you live and work in the power of the Holy Spirit, sharing Christ’s love with the world.

Grace and Peace,

Board of General Superintendents

Filimão M. Chambo
Eugénio R. Duarte
David W. Graves
David A. Busic
Gustavo A. Crocker
Carla D. Sunberg