



# East Mississippi Baptist State Convention, Inc.

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Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and Peace be unto you all in the name of the resurrected Savior Jesus the Christ. As we have reached this point, our country is facing and navigating through uncharted territory. The Coronavirus (Covid-19) continues to spread, and the implications of it have proven to be tragic in some cases (1, 541, 538 cases worldwide and 90, 086 deaths worldwide according to CDC/WHO). This is a serious situation in which medical experts are scrambling to get a grip on. In light of all that we are facing, we must remain still in Christ and yet trust him in all things.

First and foremost, I am asking that you and everyone reading this letter, will pray to God and follow II Chronicles 7:14, which reminds us in the following words stamped indelibly in the Holy Writ, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Certainly, there is Nothing too hard for God. These are critical and crucial times and WE must NOT go to pieces, but rather go to the Heavenly Father who watches over us. For I am a firm believer that If God could handle Calvary, he can handle the Coronavirus Disease.

As the concern for coronavirus (COVID-19) is extended to U.S. cities, please join me and our East Mississippi Baptist State Convention leaders in praying for the safety and well-being of our churches and our communities.

We encourage East Mississippi's churches to rely on protocol established by our nation's leaders and healthcare professional who are following guidelines established by governmental organizations including the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, and trusted medical experts.

As our local churches decide about how their congregation needs to react to the coronavirus, we urge you to establish a response plan and communicate clearly to your members. Consider establishing a task force consisting of church staff, key ministry leaders and as well as any other personnel you deem necessary. It is recommended that the following procedures are put into practice to help monitor and prevent spread of the Coronavirus -COVID-19.

Practice preventative measures outlined by the CDC, which include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially if you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at a higher risk of getting very sick.

Above all, trust God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:6-7, NIV*

*Servant of Heaven,*

*Rev. Ecclesiastes Goodwin, President*

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