



# NAGALAND BAPTIST CHURCH COUNCIL

*(Central Organization of the Baptist Churches and Associations in Nagaland)*

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Govt. Regd. No. RS 362 of 1969

March 23, 2020

The Executive Secretaries/ Director  
Baptist Associations under NBCC

Subject: CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Dear Comrade in Christ,

Warm greetings from the NBCC Office, Kohima in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

COVID-19 does not appear to be ending soon. Chances are, before it goes away, it will hit even closer to home. In view of this the government has initiated partial lock-down but it may soon resort to total lock-down. Lock-down is not a punishment but an enforcement aimed towards the well-being of us all. The pandemic has caused us to think about the things we take for granted and to rethink about how best we can respond as a church. We hope that through the exercise of preparing to organize ourselves for the Pandemic we will in turn strengthen the vision and mission of the Church.

For the time being the best way of protecting ourselves and others from the spread of the virus is still for everyone to maintain good hygiene and social-distancing. So, it will be most helpful at this juncture to discourage any form of mass gathering, whether on Sundays or other weekdays, but make alternative arrangement for worship or special events. A good example was live streaming of worship program arranged in some churches yesterday (Sunday). Certainly, this pandemic will not last but its gravity will depend on how fast we respond. Let us do away with the mindset that churches are closed down, because the church is not shut, it will never be shut because it is not the building, but the believers in Christ. The Church ministry must be strengthened by way of reaching out and by doing what is best for the community.

What can the Church do in support of the effort to curb this dreadful virus. Prayerfully reflect on how God might use the church in light of COVID-19. Consider how your church's unique resources and current ministries might be used to help those in need. Also, pray for guidance about how the most vulnerable in your congregation and community might be helped. Ask God to open your eyes to ways you might help amidst concerns over COVID-19.



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For instance, if you have expertise in the area of health, your church can create a Health Team by including health professionals and lay leaders. As we prepare for a potential crisis, we're reminded in Scripture that God gives us each unique gifts and opportunities to help the whole body as we respond to the circumstances at hand. Or we can get in touch with the administration of the District/ Sub-division, Medical and Police departments and offer any possible help – whether material, monetary or manpower.

You can develop communication strategy amongst your churches regarding COVID-19. Provide Association and church staff, leaders, and congregants with basic information on how to act so that they know what to do in advance, not only to get them through an incident, but also to help alleviate panic and anxiety. Information can be disseminated through text messaging, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and any other social media medium of communication.

After all is said and done, we step forward with faith: for God is with us as we seek protection and discern how best we can help each other. The Apostle says it well, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

When we come together as the full body of Christ, we can make larger impact than when we try to respond by ourselves – for **TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.**

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(REV. DR. ZELHOU KEYHO)  
General Secretary