

A few short thoughts from where I sit--in the middle of a seniors community...

1. The current crisis enables us all to review what it means to be the people of God. We now learn that the "Gathering event" on Sunday, while central to our identity, is only a part of our essence. We are the people of God **when scattered** as well, and perhaps even more so. In fact, despite all our admirable effort on Sunday morning to present an excellent "program", perhaps people gather together just to be in each other's presence for encouragement.

" Every pastor should have the experience of speaking into a microphone. It forces us to be succinct." Wiersbe. If you are using online videos during this time, keep the message short and the music simple. Use lay people in the video so we can "see each other". Children and seniors and church leaders.

2. A frightened world needs a fearless church (Tozer). We are wise to stay full of hope and confidence during this time. I have recently reviewed the role of the church in plagues through history. while people ran from the cities, the people of God ran to the CITIES...Care for our neighbours and the vulnerable.

3. Seniors in various levels of care always feel a sense of isolation and loneliness...and even more so these days. One dear such saint sits alone at a dining table just outside my office door. Formerly, she headed many ministries in her church and now feels frustrated. therefore...

1. Send letters (remember those things!) , print photos of people from within the church family that they can post in their rooms and apartments. Our seniors are encouraged by photos of people- and letters...keep it simple

2. Where possible, phone; but be discerning about the timing and the need that staff must play to make this happen.

3. Ask them to pray for other people in the church. Seniors feel useless at times

4. Check out the website www.spiritualeldercare.com for easy music listening for seniors

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