

It's Time to be Light!

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By Bob Young

We are all deeply affected by the coronavirus. We have children and grandchildren who are no longer in the classrooms across our nation, many ministry programs have ground to a halt, and many people are in self-quarantine. Hundreds of thousands of people are suffering during this pandemic, both as a result of the illness and because of the death of loved ones.

Beyond the impact on individuals and churches, the work of local and international missions is changing. The mission work I do is designed to help Christians around the world (especially in Latin America) be the hands and feet of Christ where they live. In many countries, Christians are experiencing obligatory quarantines and curfews. Personal contact is limited. The focus is on staying safe. I rejoice to report that many of the churches and Christians I work with are continuing to share the good news using technology. They continue to share Bible studies. Every week I receive new reports of baptisms and kingdom growth.

Regardless of your specific situation, it is time to be light! It is time to ask new questions, seek new opportunities, use new resources, develop new methods, respond to new needs. Each Christian must seek new ways to live out faith commitments, supporting other Christians and seeking the lost.

In my mission work, I am accelerating my writings, recordings, and resources during this time. In a time of social distancing and quarantine, I am helping local Christians in other countries develop virtual closeness. I continue to provide love and support remotely, using the tools available. I continue to facilitate the work of churches whose members have lost jobs and need physical help. I encourage the anxious, I pray daily for the advance of the gospel.

God is God (God is sovereign). Because God is God, God is good. While these two truths appear to be in conflict and are hard to understand in times of crisis, we pray in faith to be filled with his Spirit, power, peace, and grace. We take hope because we serve a powerful and benevolent God who continues to penetrate the human condition to provide hope and salvation.