



## Commission on Evangelism Report

Saturday, May 16, 2020 Northern Virginia Baptist Association, Inc.

Last year as we gathered in our churches on the evening of Tuesday December 31, 2019, our World would begin to face one of the deadliest pandemics in our history. Who would had thought that the amount of infected victims of any crisis could reach an estimated 500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the planet’s population, and killing an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims, including some 675,000 Americans. Who would ever imagine that Asia, and Europe would fall victim as well. Who would have thought that American citizens would be ordered to wear masks, and that schools, theaters, businesses, and churches would be closed by order of the government. What strain of virus could assume the task of Hell’s Angel of Death?

As devastating as this description may be, I have not shared with you our current pestilence. The setting for the painful pandemic listed above is the horrible history of one hundred years ago. The parallels are a frightening reminder that life is but a vapor, that appears for a little while then vanishes away. The description above is the dredged Spanish Influenza of 1918. It’s fearful grip arrived in January 1918, and haunted our world until December 1920.

In light of these troubles, we too are challenged to navigate our congregations through COVID-19, one of the deadliest pandemics in a century. The Coronavirus has infected millions of people worldwide This current biological enemy is capable of the same estimations of terminating life in the same high, or higher millions of the death tolls recorded 100 years ago. 100 years later our attire is once again adored with the duty to wear mask. Just like in 1918, our schools, theaters, and businesses are closed. However, your Commission on Evangelism of this Great Association has presented this report to declare that our churches are not closed. Our sanctuaries are vacant, but God’s Truth Still Marches On!

With this in mind we must remain faithful in the Work of Ministry that no force on Earth can mussel. The Church has been in jeopardy time and time again. Therefore, we make the following recommendations in three categories:

- I. What We Should Do Now
- II. What We Should Add
- III. What We Must Be Prepared For Later

### I. What We Should Do Now

Naturally, we should remain faithful in our missionary efforts of not only Praising, Preaching and Teaching. We should increase our evangelical efforts through the technological means at



our disposal. I am very pleased with the open access I have had to visit some of your churches by means of social media, including Facebook, YouTube, and your websites.

As well, please continue to have your congregations to share all your ministerial media with others electronically. Know that many parishioners will desire to continue as electronic worshippers even when this crisis ends. So as well as in **Paul's first letter to the church of Corinth " Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."**

## 2. What We Should Add

If you have not done so, use this time to develop a movement of intimacy within your ministry. Each one should reach one. There are people who do not know Jesus as Savior. and Lord. or lost lambs who have fallen through the gracious fingers of your church ministry. Prepare talking points to reach the lost and those who may have strayed away from your House of Faith. Just as in the 18th chapter in the **Gospel of Matthew "...if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, does he not leave the ninety and nine, and goes into the mountains, and seeks that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoices more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish..."**

## 3. What We Must Be Prepared For Later

I am convinced as well that we must all prepare with a strategic plan to re-inhabit our sanctuaries. Herein is our physical challenge: to plan to reopen our sanctuary for public worship. When the time to reopen comes, and we will reopen, we should reopen in a measured approach with a deliberate emphasis on safety. Even during this sheltered- in-place period, we have taken precautions in light of personal health, and we have followed the recommendations of credible government guidelines. When we reopen our churches, we should prioritize our gatherings with the upmost consideration for our Seniors, and those who may have compromised immune systems. Our re-openings should focus on worshipping God, learning His Word, and various essential ministries. We should add elective ministries, and activities as soon as we are able, depending on a decreasing threat of COVID-19. When we reopen, amid joy and jubilation, we should aim our primary focus on the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. As we gather, we should use the Mandate of Evangelism to compel others to establish a relationship with the Lord-who may not vanquish the storms of life, but who is with us during every storm of lives Before, During, and After the Coronavirus we have a Charge to Keep... A God to Glorify,, Never Dying Souls to Save, and Fit them for the Sky!



Respectfully Submitted

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