



# THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION OF SA DIE APOSTOLIESE GELOOFSENDING VAN SA

NEWSFLASH / 7 AUGUST 2020

Fellow Colleagues,

I would like to thank all of you who were part of the AFM National Day of Prayer last Sunday. I have received messages of appreciation from several Pastors and our members. We are not out of the woods yet. We must therefore continue to stand in the gap through prayer for our people.

## **1. WOMEN'S DAY AND WOMEN'S MONTH**

On 8 March, this year we celebrated International Women's Day. This coming Sunday, 9 August 2020 we will be celebrating National Women's Day in South Africa. We will also be celebrating women's month during the whole month of August. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all AFM women a happy Women's Day and a happy Women's Month.

## **2. FUNERALS**

Funerals continue to be potential coronavirus infection spots. This is mainly due to the disregard of the Covid-19 protocols such as social distancing, wearing of masks and sanitizing or washing of hands with soap in running water. Unfortunately, this is also experienced at the funerals of high-profile individuals. As AFM leadership, we have taken a position that the AFM leaders and members should avoid being transmitters of the virus, and rather be transmitters of hope. In this regard I would like to make a plea to all Pastors to do whatever is possible to ensure that infection is mitigated at our funerals. I have taken liberty to include a guideline document from [www.churchinaction.org.za](http://www.churchinaction.org.za) for your reference:



## How to Conduct Funerals

New government regulations – 2nd April 2020

Funerals are a difficult time for families, as they grapple with the loss of someone they love. But in this time of CORONA we cannot conduct funerals as before. The virus spreads very easily from person to person. So to protect ourselves and others, we can no longer congregate in large groups.

### Can we have funerals?

- Our government declared a lockdown on 26 March 2020 to try and stop the spread of the virus. We were asked to stay at home and all social gatherings were made illegal.
- However, our government has made an exception for funerals because they understand how important proper burials are.
- Please follow the special rules they have laid down for funerals.

### How many people can attend a funeral?

- Only 50 people are allowed to attend a funeral, including the minister who conducts the funeral.
- The funeral undertaker is not counted in the 50.

### Who can attend a funeral?

- A husband, wife or partner.
- A child of the deceased, whether biological, adopted or stepchild.
- A parent, whether biological, adopted or stepparent
- A sibling, whether biological, adopted or stepbrother or sister.
- A grandparent.
- A person who has had a close relationship with the deceased in a parental or caregiving role.

### What to do at the funeral?

- It is important at the funeral to practice good hygiene and physical distancing to protect yourself and others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or a sanitiser.
- Keep a distance of at least 2 metres from other people.

### If somebody is sick can they go to the funeral?

- If you or any of the other mourners have a sore throat, dry cough or fever (feel a rising body temperature) you may have the CORONA virus.
- In order to get better and not make others sick, you must stay at home.
- It is difficult to make this decision. Try to find comfort in private prayer.

### Can we travel to a funeral in another district or province?

Many people want to be buried at their ancestral home. So the government has made it possible for people to travel to funerals in different areas. If you are going to a funeral, these instructions will help you to stay safe.

- Each mourner needs a special permit to travel.
- To get a permit you must go to the station commander at a police station or the 'head person' at a magistrate's office. Take the original or a copy of the death certificate with you. You will also have to complete a form.
- If you do not have a death certificate they will ask you to make a sworn statement (affidavit).
- Only 2 family members are allowed to travel with the body of the deceased.
- You cannot stay with family or friends. You must stay at a guesthouse or lodge and present your permit to the owner.
- You are not allowed to hold a night vigil. This is because the virus spreads very easily when people are in close contact.
- You may only stay in the area of the funeral for 48 hours.

### How can we support the family of the deceased?

It is difficult not to attend the funeral of a loved one. If you cannot attend the funeral, there are other ways that you can support the family, pay your respects to the deceased and offer comfort and support.

- Light a candle.
- Write a short message that can be read at the funeral.
- WhatsApp or phone the family to comfort them and offer your help.
- Contribute towards the funeral and travel costs.
- Say a prayer for the deceased on the day of the funeral.
- Keep in contact with the family after the funeral.

If you need assistance or support during these difficult times  
contact your local pastor.

### 3. CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

At the recent National Leadership Forum, the new AFM Chaplaincy Committee was appointed. They are Dr. Henri Weideman (Chairperson), Past. Florence Sibanyoni (Secretary), Past. John T. Lempe (South African Police Services AFM Liaison Officer), Past. Vincent Grobler (Department of Correctional Services AFM Liaison Officer) and Past. John N. Jaftha (South African National Defense Force AFM Liaison Officer). I am asking you to keep them in your prayers.

My prayer is that God would sustain you, give you strength and guide you as you continue with your ministry under difficult and painful circumstances during the Covid-19 period.

Blessings!

MG Mahlobo

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