



## Our Calling

We are dealing with an emotional soup these days. Fear, frustration, anger, and sorrow are coloring our reactions and our choices. There is fear of the COVID-19 virus because it is uncontrollable and life threatening. People are frustrated because the only means we have to deal with the virus is to live with restrictions and limits on our activities and options. People are angry when they find they have less control of their lives than usual. Sorrow can be overwhelming when we see the suffering around us, especially if we have faced the illness of, separation from, or loss of someone close to us; or try to comprehend that more than 100,000 people have died in the U.S. alone, and that the number of dead is still growing. . . For some, fear has been paralyzing, causing people to grasp at any suggested “quick fix”, no matter how bazar, dangerous, or useless it is. Others are channeling their energy into trying to understand the virus, seeking ways to stop its spread, treat it, and find a way to prevent it. Some others have become so frustrated and angry, they will do anything to return life to ‘normal’ as soon as possible regardless of the consequences.

The reality is that “normal” is constantly changing. That is not new. In current circumstances, the fact that we cannot go back to the way things were is a very disheartening prospect. We need to heed the wisdom and experience of those who are dealing with the reality of this virus every day; the scientists studying it, and the health workers who are seeing first-hand the pain and death the virus brings. Those of us who are not sick and do not have a family member or close friend who is, have been shielded from the worst of the reality of this virus. We all need to continue to lift the sick and the separated and their caregivers up in prayer. We need to do everything we can to ease the burden of all those directly affected and protect the lives around us, especially the most vulnerable. It is the least we can do. . . . *just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it for me.* (Matthew 25:40)

### ***This week, in your prayer time remember:***

- **The other needs in the world.** Violence, hunger, natural disasters, & other needs have not gone away!
- **Those who continue to live with racism and die because of it.**
- **The people of Brazil.** Brazil is now 2<sup>nd</sup> only to the US as a COVID-19 hot spot. Brazilian Brethren (Igreja da Irmandade) live near & many work in one of the hardest hit cities.
- **Refugees & other displaced people** especially those facing COVID-19 in refugee camps.



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