

Announcement

April 23, 2020

FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE BODY OF ELDERS

1. Ensure the announcement for the congregation is read at the next midweek meeting.

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April 23, 2020

FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **Coping With the Loss of a Loved One During the COVID-19 Pandemic:** The death of a loved one is always a cause of grief, sorrow and distress. However, we realise that these emotions can be increased due to the current restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, some of you have had close family members die due to coronavirus. Whether or not the death was the result of COVID-19, likely you have not been able to grieve or handle matters in the normal way. Perhaps the person was isolated in hospital when he or she died. Though they were not isolated from Jehovah, you may still feel sad or even guilty, that you could not be by their side.

2. We want you to be assured of our empathy, sympathy and compassion as you deal with such emotions. (John 11:35) We know for certain that Jehovah understands how you are feeling and he will provide you with the extra support, “comfort” and practical wisdom that you need. (2 Cor. 1:3, 4) We encourage you to continue praying to Jehovah for his holy spirit. Stay close to the congregation. Meditate on the loving care of our Great Shepherd and his many promises for the new world.—Ps. 43:5; 55:22.

3. The Branch Committee has strong brotherly love for all of you dear brothers and sisters. Like the apostle Paul, we remember you often in our prayers. (Phil. 1:3, 4) How we long for the time when mourning will be replaced with “great ecstasy”! (Mark 5:42) We warmly commend you for your spirituality, faith and trust in our God Jehovah, who “cares for you” deeply.—1 Pet. 5:7.