

# CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Board of General Superintendents

Eugénio R. Duarte • David W. Graves • David A. Busic • Gustavo A. Crocker • Filimão M. Chambo • Carla D. Sunberg

3 April 2020

Dear Pastors,

We greet you in the strong and powerful name of Jesus. In just a few days, we will be entering into **Holy Week**, and this year we have the unique challenge of joining Jesus on His mission alongside an unseen virus, COVID-19. Already schedules and routines have been disrupted as you have been working to adapt to this new norm. Amid unforeseen obstacles, we have been able to witness the church being faithful to our calling. Thank you for allowing God's holy creativity to flow through you as you minister in new and different ways.

Although you may not be able to gather and celebrate this season as you have in the past, we **pray for an infusion of the Holy Spirit** that will touch the hearts of those who have never before experienced the risen Savior. Through these days, we have a unique opportunity to participate in sharing the hope of Easter with more people than ever before. Many avenues of ministry have opened up to you as you have broadcast services over the phone, on social media, radio, and television. We lament and grieve over what we have lost, but we also embrace this moment we have been given. May God be glorified in our midst!

While doors of opportunity have arisen, we are aware that there are also **challenges**. Only the coming months will reveal the true effect of the measures taken to provide safety and health at this time. We recognize that this may cause significant changes in local church, district, university, regional and global church operations. As a church, we have chosen to be a connected community, one that supports ministry both at home and around the world. This is the beauty of the church in action, every part of the body, doing what can be done to keep the entire body whole and healthy.

In times of crisis, we are called to speak with love and care, to act in patience and devotion, and to live boldly rather than fearfully. **Thank you** for your ministry and care for those who are suffering because of this crisis. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) is already releasing emergency funds through the Regional structure of the church to meet the needs of those who are the most vulnerable. In the past several weeks, Nazarenes all over the world have developed responses carefully and quickly to care for those in the margins. We are grateful for the ways in which you are reflecting Christ in this world.

GLOBAL MINISTRY CENTER

[www.nazarene.org](http://www.nazarene.org) 17001 Prairie Star Parkway Lenexa, KS 66220 913-577-0510

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We are **praying** for you all, that God will be glorified in and through you during this new and different Holy Week. We join with the psalmist by lifting our voices to the Father for this season:

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory. (Psalm 24: 7-10)

May the King of glory be lifted up and glorified in and through each one of you, and in the church, now and forevermore. Amen.

Grace and Peace,


Board of General Superintendents




Filimão M. Chambo



Eugénio R. Duarte



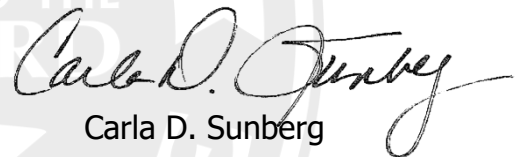
David W. Graves



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Carla D. Sunberg

