

Dear Friends! Greetings from Portugal!

We are quarantined, but we are fine. God is keeping us.

We have been praying for the US and for your families and ministries.

The times to come will not be easy for the world and especially for the church. We saw a statistic that after this quarantine, 20% of churches will go into insolvency and will cease to exist. Eduardo and I have been thinking about what can keep the church alive and active after these days? The answer that came to us was the pastoring, discipleship and small groups that have remained active through social networks.

Having millions of people watching our services online does not mean much, but the daily lives through pastoral visits in video calls, prayer groups, teaching and discipleship through the new platforms will make the difference.

As I wrote a few days ago: Social withdrawal should not give way to relational cooling. The Christian relationship remains vertical with God, and horizontal with people. I pray that when this quarantine ends, all believers will be engaged more than ever with the "Lord of the harvest," working to move His Kingdom forward like never before. We are not used to "being a church" in the comfort of our home. Others, like us, inside their homes are hard at work so that the people of God understand that even though our strategies may have changed, the target and our commitment has not! Let us not be one of those who are part of the 5 foolish virgins who were distracted in the darkest hour of the night!

We are trying, in particular, to be closer to young and old. Have you thought about the number of older people who can go into depression and attempt suicide? Emotional care must be developed by the church like never before. Pray for our young people. Some shut themselves off from their worlds and cut themselves off from relationships.

Pray for us as we seek to continue that vision while leading our workers to do the same. One of the wonderful things about being part of a historic church like ours is the structure and identity that sets us apart from many who are independent.

Thanks for partnering with us even in these difficult times.

Cindi & Eduardo Angelo