

Update on Pastors Peter and Gaby van Breda

To our dear friends at Bellevue Church, out of an over-abundance of caution we have decided to self-quarantine as a result of our recent trip to Europe and especially Italy. We must stress that we have done so not because we are sick or have any symptoms but due to the concerns of some of our congregation and also to ensure that we are being vigilant in light of what is transpiring globally as a result of Covit 19.

Following is a short update regarding our recent travel to Italy for TNIU and as representatives of Bellevue Church.

Our meetings in Italy were in regards to providing Christian based theological higher education for Italian church leaders and pastors. Our trip to Italy was the result of an invitation by an Italian Dentist who heard about us from Dr. Keith Warrington from the UK. Many of you may remember him visiting our church a couple of years ago. The purpose of our trip was to outline how TNIU with its online educational platform could facilitate education for the growing number of Evangelical and Pentecostal pastors and leaders in that country. There are many exciting possibilities for a partnership with church leaders in Italy and also with Italian church leaders in Germany and Albania. Italy in particular has no Evangelical and Pentecostal seminaries.

When we left for Italy there was no mention of the Corona Virus in that country. However within a week the situation changed drastically and Italy became the epicenter of the virus in Europe. This in particular, in the northern region where we would later be visiting with pastors and then finally with Gaby's cousin who lives in Milan. As a result of the rapidly spreading virus in Italy and at the Italian health ministers request that all meetings of over ten people be cancelled, we decided to terminate our visit while in Turin thereby forgoing travel to Milan as planned. On Tuesday we rerouted via Amsterdam and England back to the US. We arrived on Wednesday and due to the fact that we have travelled through several countries and rubbed shoulders along the way with many people we have decided that it is wisest to self-quarantine to ensure the protection of our family and church family.

Although Peter and I do not believe that we have come into contact with anyone having the virus, we deem our decision particularly important given the concerns raised by some of our church family. We prefer that our church family feel safe attending services and would encourage each and everyone to do so even more diligently so as to pray for the protection of our families and all of those affected by the virus worldwide in these troubling times.

Our encouragement to you is as follows:

1. Be in church on Sunday to hear Dr Jeff Capshaw - you will be blessed.
2. Be praying for the Easter outreach culminating as a community event on Easter Sunday with an Easter Egg hunt and after party.

3. Make use the Lenten devotional as you prepare your hearts for Passion week - the week from Palm Sunday (and yes, we will have the donkey back) through to Easter Sunday.
4. Be part of the Cross Walk on Good Friday (walking the cross to and from Factoria Mall before the Good Friday service).
5. Be part of the outreach to the 1,600 homes just above the church to distribute *doorknockers* that will invite people to attend holy week services at the church. At a time where people are concerned about the future, this is a wonderful opportunity to share the love and peace of Christ.

The future:

1. God is “up to something” in our church. He is stirring people’s hearts and is birthing a new hunger for more of Him.
2. Alan Ross will be with us on the 8th March - so be prepared for a prophetic outpouring and time of ministry in the Spirit.

Lastly do please feel free to call or text us, we are available to you even though we are not physically in the church offices or at the service this Sunday.

With much love and appreciation for each one of you - Pastors Peter and Gaby