



Praise the Lord, Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Church of Our Lord Jesus!

I bring you greetings in the name that is above every name, Lord Jesus Christ. Allow me to start this correspondence with my deepest gratitude to each of you who have prayed for and believed in the vision for the 2020 International Congress under its new administration. My heart is overwhelmed with gratefulness because of all of the love and support that my staff and I have received from each of you since we officially took office last spring. We have been working diligently to provide a conference that would be spiritually renewing and educationally empowering. Our vision continues to be “*ADD THOU TO IT*”; however, in the midst of this national crisis, conference plans must come to a halt. Therefore, it is with mixed emotions that I must inform you that the 2020 International Congress: Youth and Christian Education conference has been canceled, effective immediately. This decision is consistent with the decisions being made by many local and national organizations, including our very own, the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.

As you all are aware, the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. Some individuals are able to self-quarantine while recovering from a confirmed infection while others may experience more severe complications. Either way, the virus has caused us all to make adjustments that align with the “Social Distancing” recommendations from our health officials and the national government. Please understand that this was not an easy decision, but it was made with your health and safety in mind.

While this news may come as a disappointment to some, believe that in the Lord’s time and according to his perfect and divine will, we will see each other again soon. Right now, we want you to remain prayerful, especially for our saints and friends who live in high-impact states that are already being impacted by the virus outbreak. We would also ask that you remain prayerful for our senior saints and those who might be immune-compromised that they would remain as healthy as possible during this devastating time. Lastly, we ask for your patience. Please bear with our staff as we develop a process for taking care of outstanding business items related to the conference and know that more detailed instructions will be disseminated to all registered delegates in the coming days.

Again, I want to say thank you to the Executive Staff of the International Congress, International A.B.Y.P.U., and International Sunday School Association, as well as all appointed staff members for their tireless efforts and labor of love in planning conference activities. Your work has not gone unnoticed nor was it done in vain. We know that every setback is a set up for a major comeback, and by God’s grace, the vision to “*ADD THOU TO IT*” will continue in due time.

I also want to thank our Presider, Apostle Dr. James I. Clark, Jr., and the entire cabinet of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ for their support of the International Congress as this difficult decision was made. Until we speak again, I am praying for each of you.

May God bless you and keep you and your families covered under his precious blood.

In His Service,

Deacon Marquise L. Rose

Deacon Marquise L. Rose, BS, MBA, PMP

