Christian Dental Society News-Brief
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7 Truths to Hang on to During the COVID-19 Crisis By Rick Warren

At times like this, we need to hang on to truths that don't change. Here are seven facts to share:

Not everything you hear is true. Not everyone with an opinion on the Internet, television, and social media knows what they're talking about. You need to be selective with who you listen to during this time. Many people in the coming days will have their own agendas—financial, political, etc.—for this crisis.

The Bible says in Proverbs 13:16, *"The prudent man always acts out of knowledge"* (NIV). In other words, act out of knowledge and not fear. Make it a priority to get your facts from people who are trustworthy.

Not everyone is at equal risk in this pandemic. Those who have preexisting conditions are most vulnerable. Please be careful and be faithful but not foolish.

This will pass. The Bible tells us there will be trials. First Peter 4:12 says, *"Dear friends, don't be surprised or shocked that you are going through testing that is like walking through*

fire" (CEV). These are tough times, but they won't last forever.

Focus on what's unchanging not what is changing. There will be many changes to your world, your community, and your ministry in the coming weeks. It's safe to say you don't even know all the changes this pandemic will have on you and your community. Be flexible, but remember what hasn't changed.

The Bible says, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever"* (Hebrews 13:8 NIV). In the midst of all this change, you can count on that truth. You can also know that God's love for you and your community has never changed. God's call on your life hasn't changed. Don't let all the changes make you lose sight of everything that is still the same.

God will go through it with you. This virus didn't surprise God. He will walk through every bit of it with us. You may feel alone at times. You may feel like no one understands the demands of ministry that are upon you right now. But we will never be alone.

I encourage you to remind yourself of Isaiah 43:2 during this time: *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze"* (NIV). Focus on that truth and not all the noise on the Internet right now. It will replace your worry with worship.

This is not the end of the story. The Bible says, *"In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again . . . because we know that God raised the Lord Jesus to life"* (2 Corinthians 4:8, 14 CEV). Easter reminds us that we win no matter what happens. Even if this virus takes our lives, we will go straight into the presence of God. On that day, all of our pain, sickness, and sorrow will be over. There won't be a COVID-19 virus in heaven.

We don't know what the future holds, but we do know who holds it.

God wants to use our churches to help others. I know your church is going through an incredible challenge right now. But God doesn't want to just take your church through this crisis. He doesn't just want your church to survive during this period. He wants it to thrive. This is the difference between how we deal with pain as believers and how the world does. The church sees every need in the world as an open door for ministry.

I'm praying for our churches. This virus didn't sneak up on God. It won't stop the church. Jesus himself reminds us that *"all the powers of hell will not conquer"* the church (Matthew 16:18 NIV).

Rest in that truth.

Although CDS Members have not been able to travel overseas for mission work we are basically back to work in our offices and people are traveling again so it will not be long. Last

week, we (Drs. Bob and Diane Meyer) were scheduled to go on a dental/medical mission to Puerto Rico until the country was closed by the Governor causing us to delay the mission. We keep praying.

You may have noticed the CDS website was not coming up on cell phones or Kindle although it would work well on the computer. The mobi application for our phones required some changes in the formatting to get it working again and the CDS thanks the Curtis Group, our web managers, for helping to get the CDS website functioning properly.

The American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons annual meeting is still scheduled to be held on October 5-10 in San Antonio, Texas and the CDS plans to have an exhibit booth. If you are there, come see us.



The CDS had sold all of our blue, corrugated, plastic, portable, 13-pound dental chairs and had to order more. Above is a picture of Dr. Gayle Cheatwood's mule trailer full of 100 new blue chairs. A hearty thanks to Gayle and if you need a portable dental chair, please contact Tina at the CDS home office.

In conversation with Dr. Ron Lamb from World Dental Relief, they have been very busy so far this year supplying many national volunteer organizations and overseas projects with items like gloves and masks to the point that they have sent out a years' worth of supplies in about four months. Their stock of gloves and masks have been depleted and they are not getting many donations in at this time. Ron's up-to-date information about Haiti is that a box of gloves now goes for $1,000 and they have no testing for COVID-19 in the country.

In the June edition of the Journal of the American Dental Association, under Ethical Moment, an article was published titled "Ethical considerations when participating in global mission trips before dental school" in which the authors unfairly villainized a dentist on the mission field who inspired a student to become a dentist by allowing him to extract a simple tooth. Several CDS members have written letters to the JADA editor rebutting legalistic, idealistic, unrealistic assumptions and criticisms made in the article, for fear that the

unintended consequences may inadvertently cause dentists to give up on overseas volunteerism.

