

Servant leadership in the context of Coronavirus

Many medical staff have described their experience of this pandemic as like a tsunami. There is an unstoppable wave of pastoral and practical challenges facing church leaders. While in a few places the worst may be over, some countries are in the eye of the storm. For many others - the storm is gathering.



Care for the poor and vulnerable

The people of God are called to care for the poor and vulnerable (Deuteronomy 10:18, Psalm 82:3-4, Isaiah 58:10, James 1:27, 2:5-8). In times of crisis it is the poor and vulnerable who suffer the most. The church should prioritise them.

Serving in practice

- Identify who is particularly vulnerable and what they need. Even as people are in 'lock-down', you can do this via phone, letter or online
- Organise volunteers in apartment blocks/neighbourhoods to meet these needs e.g. cooking meals, delivering food or medicine
- Create community: use Telegram/WhatsApp groups for neighbours to help them stay in contact
- Mobilise the whole church to care in this way for the vulnerable people around them

In our practice of love and kindness, we must do everything we can to minimize the risk of transmission of Covid-19 by abiding by the appropriate guidelines. Practically this includes, not handing over deliveries but leaving them on the doorstep, remembering to keep two metres away from people and ensuring frequent hand washing.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit – Romans 15:13.

