

The Single Perspective

Newsletter of the International Single People's Alliance (ISPA)
of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (PAW)

The Legacy Continues: Pursuing Excellence

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693336#, then *6, 6:30 am daily

Now is a Time to Rest

by Evangelist
Cherlyn A. Williams
ISPA President



We are going through a challenging experience wherein our churches, councils, conventions, and the entire world are changing. We usually meet face-to-face on Sundays for our morning worship service--hearing the praise team, listening to the choir, singing praises to our God on high and being encouraged by the Word our pastors have prepared to encourage the body of believers. We must now look to technology such as Facebook Live, conference calls, Zoom and other applications to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with God's people.

Because of the Governor's orders and the mandate from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we no longer attend any church service in the manner which we have grown accustomed. We have not ever seen businesses shut down, or people sick from the coronavirus which has no cure at the moment. Our first responders are on high alert and desperately work around the clock for a cure. President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Ohio and ordered federal

assistance to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Forty-three states have received disaster declarations from the White House while some of the remaining 7 states have stay-at-home orders in place as of April 7, 2020.

Elder Marlon Dickson (Zion Pentecostal Church, Bishop C. Wayne Brantley, Senior Pastor) spoke from Psalm 46 during March 31 ISPA prayer line session and emphasized the last word Selah which means to stop and give His people rest. Now, to rest is a Selah moment. Since our typical activities have been shut down and we who previously had been traveling at a fast pace are now spending more time with our families, getting to know each other better, praying more, and more intensely seeking the face of God. There is always a purpose in everything that happens. To God be the Glory!

Some of us may become fearful, as some loved ones become ill and recover, while other loved ones sicken and pass. The death toll for the novel coronavirus is highest in the African American community. Those of us over age 60 with underlying medical conditions seem to be the targets of this virus, which mercilessly claims young people, teens, and according to one report, a seven-week-old infant.

I just want to encourage you according to Isaiah 41:10 KJV: **"Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."**

Let us not fear; let us praise our God. Don't doubt; trust our God. God's children are spread throughout the land. He is saying: **"...Fear not, O Jacob my servant..."** (Isaiah 44:2). During these challenging times, remember that God handpicked every one of us. Israel had challenges after they crossed through the Red Sea. We have had influenza, smallpox, measles, and many other sicknesses. Don't panic! God is with us. There is no need to fear

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Editorials and Opinions

If you have any concerns or comments regarding articles or opinions expressed in the *Single Perspective*, please email them to singleperspective@yahoo.com and include the subject line of Letters to the Editor.

A Practical Guide for Single Saints Who Live Alone during Quarantine

by Dr. Debra Johnson, Editor-in-Chief

The term “single” encompasses a variety of lifestyles among saints. Many singles are not alone during quarantine because they are sharing their living quarters with parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, and/or children. What can the single saint, who lives alone during lockdown, do?

1. **Contact a family member or saint each day, just to encourage that person.** The potentially stressful situation of the single saint in solitary is similar to David’s living quarters during those years of persecution that preceded his eventual kingship. David was in the cave Adullam, which means hiding place or refuge. During this challenging time, David’s brethren and father’s

relatives gathered around him. Make a list of all family members or saints who live alone whom you can visit by phone: **“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world”** (James 1:27).

2. **Join a daily prayer line.** Singles who live alone may crave the fellowship of the saints more acutely than saints who live with others. The Scriptures instruct: **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another...”** (Hebrews 10:25).

Legally, many saints cannot physically assemble, but we can fellowship in prayer. The ISPA prayer line is in its fourth year of existence. Access information is in the upper left corner of page 1 of this newsletter.

3. **Celebrate important events or have a worship service on Facebook Live or on the Zoom application.** Inquire whether your pastor or choir

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The Single Perspective

The purpose of the *Single Perspective* newsletter is to inform and edify single saints. It is published bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October, December) during the first week of each of those months, Lord willing.

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ISPA's Upcoming Events

ISPA Prayer Conference
March 25 — 27, 2021

Features

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because Jehovah Jireh (The Lord will provide) is our God. Jesus will give you strength in the time of trouble to deliver you out of any situations. God will keep a firm grip on us and a cure is on its way.

God listens to our prayers and multiplies their effectiveness! God does act in response to our prayers. Take advantage of the times we're in to read the Holy Bible more and to obey the laws of the land. Yes, the government is doing its best to keep people safe. However, our prayers can reach God's throne. **"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 4:6 and 7, KJV). Jesus has a prescription that He's going to fill and fix this situation! Hallelujah! You are welcome to fellowship with us daily at 6:30 am EST on the ISPA prayer line. Please join us by calling 1-712-770-4010, enter access code 693336#. To mute background noise, please press *6. We're looking forward to praying with you!

A Practical Guide for Saved Singles in Quarantine

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director will set up a Zoom testimony service for saints who would appreciate face-to-face fellowship. Zoom can be downloaded for free and serves as an online location for a monthly Singles' meeting.

4. **Enjoy hobby time.** While David was living in the cave



Quarantine is an excellent opportunity to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

with his family members, he began to develop his leadership skills: **"And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves with him; and he became captain over them; and there were with him about four hundred men"** (1 Samuel 22:2).

Which gifts do you have that have not been utilized? How can you grow your ministry or increase the skills required for your ministry during quarantine? Use this time to branch out in the direction you feel God wants you to grow. Learn to play that instrument you bought years ago or learn a second instrument. See if there are online groups that meet in cyberspace to discuss a hobby or activity that there was no time for before quarantine. The Scriptures indicate: **"...through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through"** (Ecclesiastes 10:18). Fix your dwelling, plant a garden, or write a book! Check out exercise videos on

YouTube for a daily workout session and finetune that diet to get your weight to a healthy Body Mass Index (BMI). Quarantine won't last forever.

5. **Deepen your commitment to God,** The great prophet Elijah slept in a cave and had an intense encounter with God: **"And he came thither into a cave, and lodged there; behold, the word of the Lord came unto hm, and He said, What doest thou here, Elijah?"** (1 Kings 19:9). Now is the time to establish a spiritual schedule by praying for a set period each day and by daily reading a designated portion of Scriptures. As singles, we can always be mindful of the spiritual freedom inherent in our lifestyle: **"But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord.."** (1 Corinthians 7:32).

Elijah was in the cave when he had a meeting with God that edified him and clarified his perceptions. David's victory was in the cave because God delivered Saul into his hands during that time: **"Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord hath delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee: and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed"** (1 Samuel 24:10). Although today's single saints live in apartments and homes instead of caves, we can still experience victory during our solitude. To be on lockdown with the Lord Jesus Christ is the sweetest place on earth anyone could ever be. ³