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### Letters to the Church during COVID-19: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020

To all the brothers and sisters at KBC,

The final consistent message in our trio of, #KeepTrusting#KeepConnected, is #Call4Support. It has always saddened me when from time to time, in conversation with people, I hear that they are struggling or been through a difficult time and they remark, 'nobody contacted me' or 'I had no one to support me'. Underlying the remarks is often an unrealistic assumption, 'you should have known' or even worse, 'if the church cared, they would have known'. It is simply not true. Those that care pastorally do not have some mystical insight that fore-warns them of peoples struggles. We need to be invited in.

Which makes me wonder what stops us from asking for help? Is it pride? We are too proud to admit that we don't have it all together and we need support. Is it because we think asking for help is a sign of weakness and we don't want to admit that we are weak? Is it because we don't want to burden others with our problems? Is it because, if we share our burden we fear we may need to let go of it and we have gotten used to carrying it and if we don't have the burden we won't be able to say, woe is me, life is so hard? Is it because we are afraid that people may say 'no' to us in our time of need, which would feel like rejection? Then there is a deeper issue - if we are afraid to ask one another for help, do we project that same attitude onto our relationship with God? There's plenty to think about there.

By contrast to all of the above the Bible encourages us to seek help primarily from God but also within the faith family (Matthew 7:7, Acts 2:42-47). We are encouraged to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and to do so especially within the faith family (Galatians 6:10). Asking for help or calling for support should be a part of our lives as disciples and it is a blessing for others when we reach out to them and ask, 'any chance you could help?' So, call for support.

And let me take this opportunity to set the example. On behalf of KBC I would like to ask for your support in the area of finance. It is such a difficult request to make because I am all too aware of the financial strain that people are under at present with the impact of coronavirus but let me explain how you can help:

1. Pray earnestly and ask God to supply for all our needs as a church (Philippians 4:19).

2. Pray for wisdom for the Leadership Team in making decisions during this time (James 1:5) and that we would steward His resources well.
3. Keep abreast of our financial position as a church by reading Paul's monthly finance update.
4. Consider, if you have given cash offerings in the past, could now be an opportunity to move this giving to an online standing order. If this is not possible please speak to Paul Adams about alternative arrangements.

As a Leadership Team we are taking necessary steps to cut back planned expenditure. Most recently we have taken the decision to furlough David Barnes from 1 May until the end of May. We also made the decision this week to furlough Nick from 20 April until the end of May. Please note that this means that Nick will not be able to conduct any work or ministry during this period in any capacity. So, any queries or call for support will need to be through the Elders. Both these steps contribute significantly to closing the gap between our income from giving and fixed monthly expenditures.

We will seek to keep you well informed through our monthly finance update, but should you have any queries about this please do not hesitate to contact Paul Adams or myself.

Thank you for all you are doing in keeping connected and for the way you trust and seek Him. May this be a season we look back and delight in the testimonies of the way we called for support and responded with courage and kindness offering support where we could.

May His grace and peace be with you.

Stu

#KeepTrusting #KeepConnected #Call4Support

### **Notices:**

#### **Upcoming events on Zoom**

Thursday: 7:45pm, Unpack the Preach discipleship group discussion. This session will include splitting off into smaller break out rooms for discussion. So, it would be really helpful if you could let Stu know by email or text/phone call whether you plan to attend.

Sunday: 10:30am, Sunday Morning Service (we will open the room at 10am for people to gather to chat and leave it open after the service for people to chat as well).

#### **KBC YouTube channel**

Here is the link to our KBC YouTube channel with Stu's daily devotional series 'You are....' and our sermons each week:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0IqZEJkxDYGSQCw6onJw/featured>