



PO Box 18 Aitkenvale, QLD 4814

Corner of Park &
Albury Streets, Pimlico

Contact Number: 0421171798

www.gbcnq.com

A friendly place to grow in grace

2 July 2020

Dear Grace Baptist Church,

We trust that you are both healthy and safe during these unprecedented times. It is with great joy that we send you this letter to announce that we will soon be able to meet in person. Once again, we will come together to obey the Saviour's commission to preach, baptise and teach (Matthew 28:19-20).

Like Daniel we need to get the balance of obeying God and obeying those in authority. It is for this reason that we have conducted our services online in accordance with government COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. As Romans 13:3-5 says, "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

With the easing of restrictions, we are developing a plan to meet again while still maintaining compliance with government health guidelines. When we meet, our desire is that no one misses out on the opportunity to attend and therefore we will be adopting the Industry Approved plan for places of worship that has been developed in collaboration with the government (https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/130229/industry-covid-safe-plan-places-of-worship.pdf). This allows churches to accommodate one person per 4 square metres (up to a total of 50 people) without singing or one person per 7 square metres with congregational singing. In addition, some members of our church have completed the COVID-19 Infection Control Training on the Department of Health website (<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>).

We do ask that those who are in a higher risk category (for example, the elderly and/or those with underlying health issues) consider staying home. Of course, you are all welcome to attend the services and we leave the decision with you. If you are displaying flu-like symptoms or have been in situations that may expose you to COVID-19 in the past 14 days please stay home and seek the advice of a medical professional.

We will be commencing in-person services at the church on Sunday, the 12th of July. Because of social distancing requirements, we will be having two services, an 8:45-9:45am service and a 10-11am service. Sunday school will occur during the 10-11am service. You will be contacted in the coming week regarding which service you would like to attend. It would be helpful if you are flexible with which service you attend.

When you come, you will notice that there will be new procedures in place to comply with health regulations:

- Social Distancing - As has become standard we request that you maintain physical distancing of 1.5m from other persons. Distancing is not required between family members of the same household.
- Entry and Exit - As per the signage there will be only one designated entrance and exit and all other doors will be closed.

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known



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• Seating - To enable maximum attendance, we will be asking congregants to sit socially distanced from others (families of the same household excepted). The church will be set up with signs and guidelines and we request your help in maintaining requirements as indicated by the signage. This system will be in place at least until the beginning of Stage 4.

• Attendance - As you enter, we will be required to complete an attendance roll as per government health guidelines. Places of Worship are required to keep a list of congregants attending services to assist in tracing an outbreak of COVID-19 should this happen. If you attend a service, we will record your name, address (or valid email address), and time in/out on our attendance sheet. This record will be kept for 56 days unless there is an outbreak in which case it is then 5 years.

• Hygiene - Cleaning of the building will be conducted before services commence. Hand sanitizer will be available at multiple sites in the building including at the entry and exit. As you enter and exit the building, we request that you use hand sanitizer. If you have a sneeze or cough please practice healthy habits by doing so into your elbow or cloth. Please remember to remain socially but not emotionally distanced! However, if you have flu symptoms, we request that you stay home.

• Service procedures - When the service starts, we will have a time of prayer, Bible reading and announcements. If we sing, the social distancing requirements rise from 4m² to 7m². This means that if we have less than 24 congregants, we may have a short time of singing. However, if attendance is above 24 then we will refrain from singing but will listen to a couple of hymns played as we have been doing during online services.

- We will not be able to have refreshments nor are we permitted to fellowship before or after the meeting. Please exit the building within 10 minutes of the service's conclusion unless you are helping with cleaning. Between the first and second worship services, seats, door handles, etc will have to be cleaned for attendees of the next service.

Within 20 minutes after the completion of the service we will be closing the doors.

- Please ensure you bring your own water bottle as we will not be using the church kitchen equipment.

- Bread will continue to be available in the church hall.

We are grateful we can meet again even though it is under these circumstances. We look forward to meeting with you on the 12th of July. If you have any questions concerning these procedures regarding COVID-19 please call or email.

Thank you for your help and understanding in these matters

With our love and prayers,

Pastor Kelly Gilliam.