



a Bible-  
Centred  
Community for  
21st Century  
Singapore

# A Pastoral Letter on COVID-19 (15 May 2021)

## Preventing premature victories:

## Go early, go hard, go together, go the distance

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### Latest Updates:

**Dear ARPC family & friends, we praise God for guiding us step by step. We suspended our onsite Services & ministries last week. We will be extending this suspension of our onsite Services & ministries and moving them online until June 13. Weddings, which have been planned in May & June, can proceed as per the latest guidelines. This is to comply with the heightened measures yet go the extra mile to do our part to help overcome this latest resurgence. Please join us online!**

### 1. The Global and Local COVID-19 Situation

Countries are experiencing a resurgence of cases and the emergence of new virus variants. Locally transmitted and unlinked community cases have also stubbornly continued to spike. These signal undetected community transmissions that could rapidly escalate into another major outbreak. Added to this is what we do not know: the efficacy of available vaccines to the variants.

### 2. Our National Response

Our government is rightly taking decisive action to curb infections and to tighten safe management measures to reduce the risk of community spread in this period of heightened alert. It is of utmost national importance that everyone be extra vigilant and take all necessary precautions against the spread. The spirit of this “whole of nation” approach takes us back to Phase 2 and is to prevent a return to lockdown like the circuit breaker.

### 3. ARPC’s Response & Responsibility

As Christians, we have a dual responsibility to be good witnesses on earth while enroute to our true home in heaven (1 Peter 2:9-25). What can we do to be “tapping the brakes, together” (remember this phrase!) at this moment of national crisis? What can we do as part of the old order of death as we groan for a whole new world where there will be “no more death or mourning or crying or pain” (Romans 8:18-39; Revelation 21:1-4)?

We can prayerfully, humbly and responsibly do our part to save lives and livelihood. Wisdom leans us towards loving God by loving our neighbor and going the extra mile by taking stronger medicine now before the risk to lives and livelihood gets out of hand. These are some small but concrete steps to discharge two vital responsibilities. First, this is to play our part in this moment of national effort to overcome a global crisis. Second, this is what we can do to alleviate the acute strain on our healthcare workers to prevent our healthcare system from tottering.

### 4. The Power of One & Oneness

COVID-19 should have taught us this. We are only one reckless act from an infection, or one thoughtful act from halting transmission. That can be said of every unsung hero – from the border controller, contact tracer, civil servant to cleaner – amongst a cast of thousands in Singapore’s courageous fight. We, as God’s people, can help every frontline worker, one another and our nation by practising the power of one and oneness. We can do our part to prevent a premature victory. Let us go hard, go early, go together and go the distance under Jesus as our Lord.

**Loving and shepherding you, Pastor Christopher Chia & our COVID-19 Core Team**