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Elder Dr. Joe B. Maddox, President
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DATE: May 7, 2020

TO: Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.

FROM: President Joe B. Maddox

SUBJECT: Keeping In Touch (2)

Brothers and Sisters as I was praying for the Convention this morning. I was led to reach out to you. I trust the Lord is keeping you safe and uplifted.

For your information, I am concerned about the Governor's push to get the economy moving again. It seems to me that the push is money over people, so to speak. If we take care of the people, the economy will take of itself in due season. I am "considering" inviting the members back of New Hope on the first Sunday in June. If we do, however, worshippers will have to wear masks, and be able to keep the six-foot social distance.

I encourage us to be mindful of two (2) different issues today;

- 1) Do not let your guard down regarding this pandemic. If we don't take care of ourselves and others, we are likely to soon have a significant increase in infections. As you know, the Coronavirus is wreaking havoc in our communities. While I don't want to appear syndical, I would not put it past the emotions of the current administration to be content with what is going on in the black and brown demographics. We need to watch out and pray.
- 2) I am concerned about the lack of leadership that we have gotten, and the information are getting from President Trump (among other things about our President) in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic. We need to start now educating our congregants on the importance of exercising our right to vote. I challenge each of us to champion the cause. We need our people to register to vote, and then to get out and vote even in this time of social distancing. I speak of not only the National election, but local offices as well. Many times, those who "serve" our communities, go on to make policies in Washington. My siblings in Christ, we cannot afford to sleep while injustice is raging in our communities and in our country. We might not have chosen to be here on our own, but we are here and this country is our country, regardless of what some groups promote.

I love you and I miss you. Keep the faith, keep praying, and keep watching.

Thank you for your continued support.