DEVOTION: GOD IS MAKING WAY. SO, BE STRONG, AND PERSIST TO THE END.

Romans 5:3-5
Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Joshua 1:9
Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Isaiah 41:10
So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
HCW Team meets every morning at 11a.m to pray together for God’s intervention:

Prayers for our partners and their families, medical professionals, our programs, and the world as a whole.

HCW monitors the trend of the Covid and communicates accordingly with our partners on the ground.
No case of Covid in Sierra Leone. Praise God!

Daily prayers for the CRC

All CRC children, staff, and families are safe and healthy

Closely in touch with the leadership of the CRC

Strict safety measures are put in place

Schools are closed

CRC still engaging the exams taking students in tutorials

CRC modified operations (visits, large gathering of children and families etc.)
Daily prayers for Mercy Hosp. (staff, patients)

All staff are safe and healthy

Closely in touch with their leadership

Continuous healthy and safety practices

Mercy continues to see patients (in and out)
“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

- 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18
Our outreach to partners & local response

- Separated physically but connected in hearts, minds, thoughts, and prayers
- HCW prays for partnership churches and their resp. everyday
- Devised ways to continue staying in touch with partners and sponsors including churches and individuals:
VIRTUAL TOOL KIT:

**Phone calls/snail mail**
- Check in
- Pray with them
- Voice messages
- Snail mail with quick program updates, space for prayer requests, encouragement etc.
- Physical copies of newsletters

**Virtual Communication**
- Electronic copies of newsletters
- 1-2 minutes of mission moment videos/two slides for churches to send out to congregants via their usual virtual communication
- Space to send in prayer requests for CRC/Mercy/HCW to pray

**Social media/website**
- All interested congregants to receive e-Newsletters
- It can go in online communications from your church to your congregants - bulletins, or e-news, or emails
- Mission updates PowerPoint/Videos from CRC/Mercy/HCW

**Sponsors/older congregation without emails/less technology/social media use**

**All donors, church partners**

**All Donors (social media/website), Church Partners (send out to congregants**
VIRTUAL TOOL KIT:

Social media/social calendar
- Share mission updates on social media platform.
- HCW FB page, weekly posts of short videos, encouragement, prayers (prayer requests)
- Live update from CRC/Mercy via videos, narration or voice over
- Facebook Live, Inspirational moments etc.

Virtual Fundraisers
- Virtual fundraiser events
- Social media users, in place of physical fundraiser events
- Musical entertainment,
- Text to Give
- Facebook Watch Party
- Facebook Fundraiser Launch/campaigns
- Social media online campaigns

Event Attendees/online supporters

Physical/virtual fundraiser
- 20/20 fundraiser via social media, physical mailing, Newsletters, website
- Go Fund Me capability via Give Effect
- Donation cards

All online supporters

All supporters/donors
Virtual meetings/gatherings

• HCW sets up a virtual meeting to walk church partners through the virtual tool kit.
• Church partners use the tool kit to host similar gatherings for their interested congregants
• HCW can set up a virtual gathering for the Church Partner with a power point, mission minute videos, zoom instructions/video conferencing to set up virtual meeting, thumb drives with our virtual toolkit
“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

- COLOSSIANS 3:17

MAY GOD MULTIPLY OUR EFFORTS AS HE POURES BLESSINGS ON IT.
Partner church operations
How are you holding church?

- Facebook Live - Live Chat session in the background
- Live Streaming - Sunday School sessions in a live chat
- Recorded - Hymn Sing – went to the people’s houses directly
- Instagram - Younger people are running errands for older congregants
- Pre-recording the week prior and posted on Sundays at 9:30 - Dinner through Zoom small groups and Food pantry - Fresh Produce market – pre-bagged, drive through
- Share on website and YouTube - Grace ministries – different stations – turned in to drive through
- Live Zoom Coffee hour after church – Care ministers engage with elderly/assisted living/home bound
- Phone Tree with various members calling everyone on Sunday attendance to make sure they are Ok. And others who they have a contact

What obstacles are you encountering?

- Zoom gurus to help others learn how to use the technology
- City mandate where there can be no more than 3-4 people in one room so can not run all ministries
- Connecting with each demographic in the church
- Assisted living /home bound
- Isolation
What benefits are you receiving?

- Being creative in their approach to ministry
- Small group ministry – an opening to using virtual platforms to build small groups
- Agility – staffing adjusting to the needs/insights of the congregation
- Those congregants who tend to be quiet are speaking up more – possibly due to using virtual platforms instead of in person
- Sharing the love of Christ when healthy at a distance – to serve those who are isolated – maintain social distancing not isolation
- Prayer time 2x a day with Pastors

How does your congregation connect to mission in this time?

- “Roof digging” – Entire church putting together a spreadsheet on how people are ministering at this time
- Good news moments – instead of live versions and pre-record to keep it more polished - to continue celebrating mission efforts
- Sending out church wide email with needs and updates and refer to mission leaders for specific ministries
How do you reach congregants who are not connected via internet/social media?

- Phone Tree
- Visiting congregants “Hymn Sing”
- Pastoral teams reaching out directly
- Sending out physical cards from ministry directors to help stay in touch

Do you perceive problems with HCW Virtual approach?

- Virtual missions trips – set up video conferencing, trainings, prayer groups with the CRC and Mercy
- Suggestion: connection to a child that the church supports – may want to do a virtual connection to children and their families in SL to keep personal connection
  - Focus right now is centered on Families who are at home together
  - 600 children – could we get families to sponsor all 600 families?
  - A video of the children and their families when they write their letters? – challenge will be in transmitting the video
How can we connect and pray with one another/for each other?

• On HCW’s website and social media identifying what our church partners are doing virtually to support their congregants and communities
  • Church partners would need to ask the decision makers – pastors, missions teams –
  • Protocol of what is a priority for the church to communicate – anything we can do to make the congregants feel like they are ministering to someone else

How can we connect with our partners overseas?

• Should we think ahead to what the needs are going to be if COVID hits Sierra Leone
  • Test kits for COVID at Mercy?
  • Increasing messaging about hand washing - funding to open radio stream to help with trainings and messaging
  • Training with CRC parents in small groups on safety protocols – 30 people – Mercy is doing the training
  • Isolation facilities

Connection opportunities - links to social media and messages we can promote to join with your congregation for the rest of the faith community
Anything else to share?

Specific Prayer Requests?

- Concern there are a lot of people who have COVID but are not being necessarily tested
Recap of the things we have identified:
Closing Prayer:

THANK YOU!!