



**Rev. Dr. Kenneth B. Martin, President**

April 21, 2020

Greetings My Brothers and Sisters,

My General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. Family,

**Re: Governor Brian Kemp's Executive Order, April 20, 2020**

Governor Kemp on yesterday signed an Executive Order to begin re-opening the state beginning this Friday to include places of Worship. However, in Georgia as of Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> there were 19,399 confirmed cases and 777 deaths. The majority of confirmed cases in Georgia are African Americans. As Shepherds of God's people, you and I must be concerned not only about the spiritual health of our people but also their physical health and well-being.

Our people are dying at a higher rate disproportionately than white people are. Medical professionals have indicated that testing, contact tracing and treating percentages must be at greater levels prior to re-opening the state, but they are not. The positive testing results and deaths have the proclivity of rising. Therefore, with all these factors being true I am asking that we as Pastors ask our parishioners to continue with our online, streaming and drive-in worship celebrations on Sundays until further notice. Isaiah 26:20 says, "Go my people and enter into your rooms and shut the door behind you, hid yourselves for a little while until the wrath has passed by. My brothers and sisters let us be mindful when God is at work or allow things to take place, let us respect his hand and protect yourself and your family and during this time stay prayerful for this too shall pass and we shall come out stronger as a family and convention.

Let us remember those that have fallen while on the battlefield during this pandemic and have now received their reward in heaven also lift their families up in prayer. PLEASE, PLEASE check on those that are near you to see if you can be of help to them while practicing social distancing. Please know that I am praying for each of you, your families and church family.

May God's grace be our strength through this pandemic.

Grace and Peace,

Yours in His Name,

*Kenneth B. Martin*

Kenneth B. Martin, D.D.  
GMBC President

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