



Churches Facing Challenges during the Red Alert of COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh

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With a dilemma of acceptance of the new norm, ministry work is progressing with diversity

Bangladesh is now under the most crisis period of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The country is facing the third wave of virus contamination which has turned out a serious threat to the lives and economy of the country. More than 250 people were reported to have died daily during the first two weeks of August 2021. The contamination is rapidly growing, particularly in areas bordering India as the Delta variant runs rampantly here. This rapid contamination of the virus kills people, causing several fatal diseases as after effect and keeping lives in jeopardy. Not only the health issues, but Bangladesh is now facing a severe economic downfall. Many industries, mills, and factories are declared closed permanently due to the extreme loss. Many people have lost their jobs.

They are struggling for survival. The sudden unfortunate changes in lives are also affecting their mental health. Families are broken. Suicidal tendencies have been increased. The COVID-19 outbreak has been turning Bangladesh into a dark nightmare.

The pandemic is also adversely affecting spiritual activities. The pastors, lay preachers, and church members are going through a tough time. Especially, the lay preachers and local pastors are financially broken. Surviving a day is difficult for them. But spiritually, they are devoted and mentally, they are strong. They have accepted their life with Jesus. They know the Lord will show them the right way.



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The leaders support the lay preachers and local pastors with the strength of faith, prayer, and hope.

All the pastors, leaders, and lay preachers are on the ground to maintain unity in Christ in this crisis moment and supporting the church members by every possible means. Though the prohibition of mass gathering in religious meetings has been remised to some extent, the willingness of physical involvement in churches is something to work on. To keep pace with the other countries of the World, the churches of Bangladesh have organized virtual meetings, church services, and devotions to maintain members' regular involvement with the church activities. The adjustment with the new norm in evangelism and church planting is difficult but not impossible. There is a visible uncertainty in the near future and coping with the new norm is a challenge for the ministry. With the blessings of the Lord, ways are open to sharing the gospel as people are willing to hear good news to have inner peace. With new ways of sharing the voice, evangelical work is progressing with new experiences and diversity.

It is a positive tone that the new dimension of church activities, evangelism, and church planting is an opportunity to generate the experience for future challenges.

However, the World is now intensely praying to worship and praise the Lord with breathing a fresh and positivity. It is our faith that the day is not so far, and we are waiting for His blessings. ■