



## Message from Pastor Mansfield Edwards *Ontario Conference President*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

At present, we are facing unprecedented challenges, as the Coronavirus has severely disrupted our daily lives. With Ontario in a state of emergency as of Tuesday, March 17, 2020, we have experienced the shutdown of gyms, libraries and restaurants, schools, and even our churches.

But as we face uncertain days, offering a preview of things to come, we can rest assured that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. He is bigger than any situation we might face, including this one. Therefore, let us not be afraid. In the midst of this crisis, we can lean into God's perfect love, which casts out all fear, and trust that He is still in control.

As per guidelines from the Federal Chief Medical Officer, all gatherings, including church services, are suspended until further notice. However, we are thankful that technologies are available, such as live streaming, Zoom, Facebook live and teleconference that will help churches spread their messages of hope and healing to the world.

Finally, we want you to know that we are in this together. We continue to serve you at Ontario Conference, some of us from home and others during limited office hours of 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday. We will continue to provide oversight and be a resource in this new era of ministry. Visit our Conference website, [www.adventistontario.org](http://www.adventistontario.org), for regular updates and tips on staying in good health.

### **Let us pray:**

Lord, we humbly beseech Your grace and strength. We pray that You guide the leaders of this nation as they navigate uncharted territory. We pray that You preside over the leadership of the Conference administrators and directors. We pray that the ministry of our pastors, teachers and Bible workers will grow stronger and deeper. We pray that our members would draw closer to You and to one another, that they would be a source of love and light to their neighbours. Lastly, we pray for Your hand of healing, whether physical or emotional, on those impacted by COVID-19.

Lord, help us experience Your presence as never before, as we eagerly anticipate Your second coming. Thank You for Your continued mercies, in Christ's name we pray, amen.

May God bless you and keep you.

Mansfield Edwards,  
President