

The Gideons International In Canada | ShareWord Global's response to COVID-19



The Gideons
INTERNATIONAL IN CANADA



ShareWord
GLOBAL

In the past couple of months as COVID-19 has quickly spread across countries and continents, the activities, priorities, and goals of nearly everyone have been stopped in their tracks and re-evaluated. We've all found ourselves facing realities we didn't expect.

Individuals, governments, stock-markets, and businesses—it seems no one is immune to confronting the reality that they are not in control as much as they like to believe. Our own organization has faced the unexpected timings of these new realities—a challenge to our strategic plans for the year. But, in the midst of what is a frightening unknown to many, we feel the urgency of sharing the gospel even more acutely.

Our Actions

In February, we began to monitor the COVID-19 situation in our areas of ministry, with China being the first impacted. Our staff member in China was instructed to self isolate and adhered to those directions.

In March, the organization enacted the following:

1. **The head offices** in Guelph and Cambridge, Ontario began to operate with a skeleton crew on March 16 while the remaining staff worked from home. Beginning March 24, as all non-essential business were instructed to close by the provincial government, our offices closed as well with the remaining staff also moving to a work-from-home arrangement.
2. **All international ministry travel** has been suspended through May and future travel will be frequently re-evaluated dependant on the COVID-19 situation.
3. **Domestic ministry travel** has been suspended until further notice.
4. **International ministry work** has been suspended or modified to adhere to safety measures specific to the country of ministry.
5. **All in-person fundraisers, events and distributions** have been postponed. Digital alternatives for fundraisers and evangelism training have been implemented.

We have enacted these measures for the benefit of employees, ministry partners, and all the communities we are a part of. And we are praying. Prayer remains a crucial and foundational part of our ministry and we continue to respond to an uncertain situation with faith in a loving and unchanging God.

Our staff, partners, and members have confidence in the hope of Christ—a message desperately needed in this time. One of the most encouraging discoveries in the midst of the trial was that so much of our work had begun to adapt over the past eight years and we were ready to adjust to the new circumstances! Praise God that he had begun to prepare us over these past few years for a time such as this. What a blessing that we genuinely thank the Lord for.

- We have improved our digital abilities for raising funds but also for doing ministry work.
- We are exploring safe ways to distribute the Word of God without compromising physical distancing.
- We have a digital evangelism-based Bible app (NewLife) and digital copies of our Scripture magazines for reading online.
- We are introducing digital seminars for evangelism training and teaching.
- We remain on mission to ignite and fuel a passion for evangelism and introduce people to Jesus through God's Word.

Our commitment to reaching people for Christ remains steadfast, as does our desire to see believers encouraged to share the gospel with their neighbours and communities. During this time, rest in the Lord and find your peace in Him. We pray that we can also be an encouragement and resource for you as we continue in mission together. Our priority remains—impacting lives with the gospel.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Anderson', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Al Anderson
President