



10 July 2020

Dear Northfield Family

We hope and pray that you are safe and warm.

During our last communication we said that we would keep you, as the Northfield family, up to date with our restructuring process which was necessary due to our financial situation. Over the last couple of weeks, we have had numerous conversations as the Northfield executive as well as with every staff member of Northfield. It has been a very difficult journey to say the least.

We need to say thank you though. Thank you to the congregation: the amount of emails, phone calls, and text messages that we have received where people have shared their heartfelt sympathy, their support and even generous financial contributions have been incredible. We have truly felt God's grace and love through you the people of Northfield.

We need to say thank you to the staff. There were many moments where we were moved to tears by the staff's incredible way of processing this difficult journey. The staff have been generous, gracious and kind. Some staff even offered to serve Northfield at no cost, despite themselves being in difficult positions financially. Many of the staff graciously agreed to take on additional work and responsibility or reduced hours and salary. We were deeply moved by the staff's care and concern for each other as well. It is with deep sadness though, that we have had to say goodbye to 8 staff members. Many of them have served Northfield faithfully for many years. We had to make difficult decisions based on operational requirements for Northfield in this season and beyond Covid, and so we have had to say goodbye to some very faithful, hardworking, dedicated, passionate and gifted staff members. We are hoping to have a moment where we can celebrate these people in the future.

With regards to Northfield, we are still looking forward to the time when we can gather in person. We are looking at different possibilities, but for the time being with the surge of positive Covid-19 cases in and around Benoni, we have had to take the difficult decision of not meeting in person. We continue to worship together from a distance, and we continue to serve the community both in mission and pastoral care. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any needs or concerns, we long to serve each other in this difficult season.

Let us hold on to the truth that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Let us hold on to the truth that God will never leave us nor forsake us. Let us hold on to the truth that God is the beginning and the end and God is good. May these truths remind us that this season will not last forever, in the end all will be well and all will be good because God is good.

Yours in Christ,
The Northfield Society Executive.

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