



## Luther, on the Black Death, in the 16th Century

*"...I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, He will surely find me and I have done what He has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbour needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."*

*from Martin Luther's letter to the Rev John Hess*

## What should I pray for?

Ana Davy is the CEO of Australian Capital Territory and speaks about the challenge of not being able to be relational.

"I can tell you with confidence that every current ministry of SU could be shut down. We could be locked out of schools, stopped from running camps, and denied permission to run community missions, but while we, as a movement of Christians, retain our passion for commending God to the next generation, our mission can never be shut down."

I wasn't talking about Coronavirus, I was talking about changes to government regulations that ended school chaplaincy. But this new context is testing how true that statement is! Today we're splitting our time, between suspending things well and preparing for a workshop with churches and our volunteers titled Contagious Faith – Because you can't quarantine the Good News. We're working with churches to help them find ways of gathering that might be online, looking at VR gaming platforms for virtual camps and compiling a list of the great online resources available to help us. Please pray for creativity and faith to believe that God can and will work through us at all times

As we watch ministry after ministry suspended we can either despair or trust that God is capable to work.

## More to pray for

The global economic meltdown and possible recession facing many nations - for government leaders as they deliberate next steps.