

How to maintain the fellowship in lockdown conditions?

COVID19 has affected people of all walks of life, including the New Testament following Christians. In many places, Assemblies have not had meetings for months. Ask the older brethren amongst us, and they will say there's never been a time like this since Assembly testimony started. The first thought that rushes to our mind is that the Lord's coming is at hand. Such an awakening is good for believers. All the same, let us be mindful of one another, as the writer to the Hebrews admonishes us

... let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:24 and 25)

The lockdown conditions will not allow us to come together in many places. All the same, we can exhort one another through one-on-one communication and remember in prayers.

In 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, Apostle Paul requires us to live with the expectation of the Lord's coming at all times.

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do (1 Thessalonians 5:6-11).

Here, he uses warfare terms (breastplate and helmet) to instruct us to be sober and vigilant (1 Thessalonians 5:8). Notice, Paul's instruction here is in the context of the fellowship - "comfort yourselves together and edify one another" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Hence, we must consider one another during this trying time. True, this is challenging while in lockdown; that is when technology comes in handy.