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Chairman of Trustee Ministry

"A Call to Prayer and Fasting for Seven (7) Days in Supplication for our Children's Safety"
Sunday, December 16 – Sunday, December 23, 2012

December 16, 2012

Dear Beloved,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you, but I hope that it finds you in good spirits and health. Mark 10:13-14 states,

"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them, and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

This week 20 children and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School lost their lives. It is unconscionable to think that anyone would harm one more or less 20 precious children. We will never know what was in the mind of this young man when he entered that school this past week. However, what we do know is that God is just, righteous, holy and loving. Thus, we can only believe that God will enact justice, peace and serenity in the wake of this tragedy.

I am sure many of you were like me this week when I asked, *WHY*. Then I remembered, it is not our place to ask God why but to seek understanding and discernment that draws us closer to God, even in the midst of a tragedy such as this. As Christians, it is our responsibility to mankind and our duty to God to pray for the healing of our nation, and in particular to focus our prayers on the families who lost loved ones in the tragedy, as well as for the accuser and his family.

As father and grandfather, I can only imagine the emotion and disbelief these mothers, fathers and family members are experiencing at this moment. However, what I do know, as a believing Christian and one who loves the Lord unconditionally, is that God is a very present help in the time of trouble. He is our pavilion; he is almighty God and our salvation...so who shall we fear? Therefore Macedonia, it is our calling to demonstrate the strength of the Lord and our ability to be *"The church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is All"*. To that end, I challenge each of us today to reach out and embrace every young child. Let them know how much they are loved and cherished, and most importantly how much God loves them.

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Unfortunately, we are living in a society where all our children are not given love, a hug or even a word of encouragement. They are not even safe in our own schools. We must fill that void.

Now is the time that we must mandate, and where necessary provide "safe places" for our children. We must be the remnant of people who not only believe that God is almighty, omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent, but demonstrate God power through action. And, as such I am calling upon each of you to join me in **Seven (7) Day Prayer and Midday Fasting in supplication for the safety of our children**. *Specifically, I am requesting that for the next week – until December 23rd – each of us give up our lunch meal and pause at 12 noon for corporate prayer in supplication to God. Our prayer should focus on healing and safety all over the land, and especially in the place where are located.*

I hope that you will join me in this daily prayer and midday fasting for the next seven (7) days. We serve a powerful God and together in prayer and supplication God will work wonders in the lives of children, our community and the nation.

God bless you Macedonia and may God bless you and heaven shine upon you. Let's remain prayerful!

Your pastor, servant, brother, and friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren M. Morton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Darren M. Morton, Senior Pastor