

# Viver o batismo: dons a serviço

“Eis que faço novas todas as coisas”

Apocalipse 21.5

## Presidência

IECLB nº: 285645/21a



Porto Alegre, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## 200 thousand deaths by Covid-19

“My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word”. (Psalm 119.28)

We reached the scary number of 200,000 deaths by Covid-19 in Brazil. The Evangelical Church of Lutheran Confession in Brazil expresses its feeling of dismay and prays to God to console the people who suffer from losing a loved one.

How many deaths are needed to sensitize a person, to move a nation? Which people need to die so that a heart can feel the pain brought by death? What symptoms and sequelae are needed to convince someone about the severity of the pandemic? How many deaths are yet to come?

Since the beginning of the pandemic, medical and scientific organizations have warned of the deadly potential of the new coronavirus. Many people took it seriously while others disregarded the safety recommendations. Some political leaders acted with responsibility and commitment to life. Others omitted themselves and showed disregard. In the face of the furor of the virus, the death of thousands of people was inevitable. However, it is certain that many lives could have been spared. And many deaths can still be prevented.

In addition to social distancing and hygiene measures, broad vaccination is the most promising prospect at the moment. It is the duty of the government to guarantee free access to the vaccine for the entire population. We know that the process is complex. It requires planning, resources and time. It is precisely for this reason that we cannot conform to negligence and misleading justifications. Agility and efficiency will be the difference between life and death.

The IECLB is committed to life and to actions to reduce the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will have difficult times also in 2021. Therefore, we insist on the need to keep caring for each other. We will not let ourselves be influenced by folly, nor will we allow discouragement to overtake us. We will keep hoping, because God is with us!

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5.14). In the darkness of the pandemic, we will be light as we act responsibly, taking every precaution to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus. We will be light when we have an attitude of care for people who suffer the consequences of the pandemic. This care can be a prayer, a word of comfort and hope, a diaconal action. We will be light when we follow the light of Christ: compassion, truth, faith, justice, peace.

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