An Open Letter to the Quad Cities:

This letter is representative of several pastors and congregations of the Quad Cities who are motivated by faith, hope, and love. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the church (which consists of many different congregations) has been a ready force to bring life, hope, encouragement, and practical assistance to many throughout the Quad Cities. As pastors, we have stood with those who are in fear, we have counseled those that have been impacted in the areas of their jobs and finances, we have prayed for those that have experienced a loss of life in their families. Even though the doors of our buildings have been tightly shut, the church has continued to be alive and well.

In the next several weeks, churches around America will be reopening their doors and begin holding public gatherings. Most will do it in phases to ensure that safety and public health is a priority. The churches of this particular alliance have committed to providing safe facilities as well as appropriate social distancing. Some will open with the approval of their state government; some will not. Each will do it with a sense of responsibility to the congregations they serve and with a sense of spiritual responsiveness that is founded in a deep conviction of morality.

The undersigned pastors have formed an alliance that represents many churches and hundreds of parishioners in the Quad Cities, (specifically on the Illinois side of the border). These are leaders who have joined together with a shared sense of understanding that we must open the doors of our churches in the next few weeks. Many of them will be opening on May 31st, Pentecost Sunday. While we are not raising our fist in rebellion to the governmental authorities of the land, we do carry a firm commitment that the longer the doors of the church are closed, the more detrimental to the overall health of our society.

We recognize that not all will agree with the opening of churches. There will be churches that will remain closed for quite some time, and we applaud the resolve of those congregations being led according to their convictions. As we are witnessing a historical season in our country, there is a significant dividing line both in the healthcare industry as well as in the government. This particular coalition of pastors is not choosing sides either way, but exercising our biblical and righteous responsibility to lead our congregations according to our convictions. This right has been recognized since the founding of America.

We proudly stand together as one church, opening our doors to the Quad Cities with the message of faith, hope, and love.

Sincerely,

Brad Swartout
New Life Church

Angelo Julien
Living Waters Christian

Tanner Payton
Word of Life

Tim Bowman
Calvary Church

Scott Reece
MGT New Hope

Dan Qualls
Bethel Assembly

Jerry Helms
Cornerstone Christian

Josue Rodriguez
New Hope - Milan