

## ***OFM 2021: Statement by the Trustees and Conference Organising Group***

After much prayer, and following the decision of High Leigh Conference Centre not to open their facilities until at least 1<sup>st</sup> May, we have decided not to hold an in-person conference this year but to deliver the 2021 On Fire Mission annual gathering as an online event.

We are committed, first and foremost, to the safety and wellbeing of the whole OFM community, and we are especially mindful of those conference attendees for whom gathering in-person would be particularly risky at this time. We have made the choice to run OFM 2021 online, rather than defer to a later date, because we believe this to be the safest, most responsible, and most inclusive option in the present circumstances; although we acknowledge it will come as a disappointment for many not to be able to gather physically, and the decision will also come at considerable cost to the Charity.

We are, however, delighted that an exciting programme of online content is already taking shape, and the Conference Organising Group are working incredibly hard behind the scenes to make it happen. We will still join together in worship; we will still share in prayer and fellowship with one another and we will still hear from our fantastic speakers and workshop leaders. God's renewing Spirit continues to be at work in our own lives and in the life of the church, and OFM will continue to play our part in resourcing the church as it seeks to bring the light and life of Christ in these most difficult times.

In this, as in all things, we trust that the Spirit will be our guide, but please pray for the whole OFM team as we make preparations for #OFMonline2021. The trustees are making arrangements with regard to finance (e.g. online conference financial costs as well as plans for OFM 2022) and we will be dealing with refunds in due course. We will communicate with you again on this as soon as we possibly can.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have responded to this rapidly changing situation. We hope that this news will give you confidence and clarity about OFM 2021 and enable you to join us in planning for an exciting online event.