



Growing the Post-pandemic Church by Bob Whitesel, D.Min and Ph.D

12 Radical Changes Coming to the Church

(pgs. 3-11)

- ◆ Hugging will decline. However, the genuine eye-to-eye smile may replace the hug.
- ◆ Sharing the communion cup will still be meaningful, but in increasingly metaphorical ways.
- ◆ Children's ministry will be disinfected and cleaned regularly, or people won't bring their kids.
- ◆ Junior high, high school and college groups will continue to be a hybrid and a challenge.
- ◆ The offering plate will mostly disappear.
- ◆ Leaders, greeters, ushers, teachers and other church workers will use hand sanitizer more often.
- ◆ Worship will move from entertainment to experience.
- ◆ Singing will be suspect (and different), but meaningful.
- ◆ There will be different levels of social distancing for vulnerable populations
- ◆ Outdoors will tend to be better than indoors.
- ◆ A shorter period of time will be better than a longer one.
- ◆ Smaller groups will be more desirable than large groups.

What Churches Will Survive and Which May Fail After a Pandemic

(pgs. 12-22)

Churches That Will Suffer The Most:

1. Churches with aging buildings and no savings
2. Churches that have overbuilt
3. Multisite churches that own their satellite campuses
4. Churches that rely on the onsite Sunday morning offering
5. Churches that put on a Sunday spectacle



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What Churches Will Survive and Which May Fail After a Pandemic
(pgs. 12-22)

Churches That Will Survive:

1. House churches, pub churches, café churches and online churches
2. Churches that have spent their money on staff, rather than spent their money on facilities
3. Churches with bi-or co-vocational leaders
4. Churches that are you, have been recently planted by a mother church

What Every Church Can Do To Increase Survivability:

- ◆ Focus on making learners
- ◆ Focus on small groups as the primary venue where fellowship and spiritual growth takes place
- ◆ Focus on prayer and serving the needs of others

What are we doing right?

What are we not doing that we need to do?

What do we need to do more of?



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When Catastrophe Prevents a Church From Meeting

(pgs. 23-28)

4 Things Leaders Should Do Immediately:

- ◆ Stream your services online, making it a part of your church personality
- ◆ Expand funding and online funding options
- ◆ Increase congregant involvement by offering more online options for small groups
- ◆ Use it as a teaching opportunity about the Great Commission

Paul's Guide to Leading Remotely:

- ◆ Be personable
- ◆ Reputation is based upon God's work in a life
- ◆ Accept change, yet acknowledge how God is behind the change
- ◆ God deep theologically, but give them something to do with it.
- ◆ Use stories, to help others endure the unendurable
- ◆ When you must correct, do so with a parent's firm but loving touch
- ◆ Face-to-face leadership is sometimes still required
- ◆ Be authentic and humble
- ◆ Put others first, as exemplified by Christ
- ◆ Reconciliation and transformation are pivotal in the community of the King
- ◆ Be thankful and prayerful for those you are entrusted to lead



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eReformation, Leading Electronic Church Growth

(pgs. 39-50)

10 Things to Start Doing Now:

- ◆ Online small groups will become the majority of a church's smaller groups.
- ◆ Authentic worship online
- ◆ People will regularly digest their favorite preachers who may not be national names, but people to whom they can relate
- ◆ Largeness will be replaced by relevance
- ◆ An increasing number of committee/board/training meetings will be conducted online
- ◆ Counseling and theological discussions will increasingly take place online
- ◆ Large events, concerts and conferences will still occur, but fewer of them will be sponsored by the church
- ◆ Churches will address society's growing fear of the big: agoraphobia
- ◆ Sharing your faith will become more combative
- ◆ The meaning of life, death and the afterlife will increasingly be on people's minds and must be addressed in church teachings



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7 Things Churches Can Do To Foster Reconciliation
(pgs. 54-58)

- ◆ Learn about the outsider
- ◆ Learn not to judge by appearance
- ◆ Learn about the ministry of reconciliation
- ◆ Plan regular unity services
- ◆ Reevaluate where you spend your money
- ◆ Pray to recognize you own personal preferences and how they've impacted you
- ◆ Teach about and expect for people to be spiritually transformed

Streaming Sunday Service
(pgs. 59-65)

- ◆ Be Your Genuine Self
- ◆ Focus on Transitions
- ◆ Immediacy
- ◆ Presentation
- ◆ Connecting Via follow-Up and Giving
- ◆ Ignore, Don't Criticize Technical Problems
- ◆ Lead people to an encounter with God
- ◆ It is normal to be worried and scared, but trust God



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The Future Church *(pgs. 66-72)*

4 Long-Term Negative Church effects of a Quarantine and What to do About Each:

- ◆ People will get out of the habit of going to church
- ◆ People will find alternative online communities, if the church doesn't step up
- ◆ Workers will increasingly work online and from home
- ◆ People will increasingly fear outsiders