

Ministry in a Pandemic/State of the Church

The spiritual and moral influence of church in America is at very point in America. A growing number of Americans have given up on God or at least on organized religion as we know it today. They have become “Nones” a term used to identify a person unaffiliated with no specific group or not associated with a religious home.

Church attendance data over time is important here. In 1940, a survey taken by Gallup Poll asked Americans, Do you attend church weekly, or have attended church within the last week? 37 % answered yes. In 2015, the same question was asked. 36 % answered yes. It should be noted that, it was not a significant amount of difference in the responses. The facts are clearly defined; church attendance is on a steady decline.

The reality is that the United States remains a remarkable devout nation. About 4 /10 Americans claims to attend church weekly. More than 138 million Americans or 44% of the population belong to an organized religious group.

Some churches are able to maintain regular church attendance, church growth, evangelism, membership increase, and consistent financial stability. However, others are experiencing a significant decline in church attendance, church growth, evangelism, and inconsistency in the ministry of giving.

The word of God in Matthew 28:18-19 NIV Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

This was said over 2000 years ago, but has strong implications for today.

The global church where Christ is the central focus has a commitment to maintain what was said in Matthew 28:18-19.

All Christian Churches throughout the world have had to make an adjustment to Praise and Worship in a different mode of operation. Some of us have realized what we have often heard said, "That the church is not the building, but the church lives within us."

COVID-19 has dismantled our regular church activities of Sunday Worship, Bible Study, Senior and Youth Activities. However, we cannot as Believers be distracted of sustaining our Praise and Honor to God. Since COVID-19 the Pastor's Pulpit is now a room designated in his house. The pews are no longer in the sanctuary, but are the chairs, couch, or stool in the residence of the Minister. The congregation has the opportunity to view the sermon from the comfort of their home; in the living room, family room, outside lawn, porch or patio. This is all possible for the connection that God has made available to us via His word transmitted through the atmosphere.

We remember in prayer, those families that have been severely impacted by the devastation of COVID-19. We pray that God will continue to strengthen them in every avenue of life.

Finally, this committee accedes that although, COVID-19 has seized over 181,000 precious lives in the U.S.A.; we still have a commitment to proclaim His word.

Matthew 4:19 MSG Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass."

Submitted by: The Committee-Ministry in a Pandemic/State of the Church

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