



# LINK

CONNECTING LEADERS FOR  
FELLOWSHIP, MENTORING,  
VISION, AND SUPPORT

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[www.illinoiscog.org](http://www.illinoiscog.org)

## UNCHARTED WATERS

Needless to say, we are living in unprecedented times. Never in our lifetime have we experienced the level of worldwide crisis like we are today. The Coronavirus has dominated our thinking for the last several months and real solutions seem like a distant dream. As anxiety builds and hope seems to fade, the Church is also in the middle of this storm.

### How does the Church respond to uncharted waters like these?

A nautical chart is a graphic representation of a body of water and the coastal regions surrounding it. The charts may depict depths of water, natural features of the ocean floor, details of the coastline, navigational threats and hazards, information on currents and tides, and human-made structures such as bridges and harbors. Nautical charts are necessary and valuable tools for marine navigation. As one pilots a ship, careful and detailed records are kept. The purpose of these records is to note points of interest and concern so that those who sail the area in the future will be able to avoid danger and disaster. There may be shallow water, rocks or other obstacles under the surface, particular tides and currents, even weather patterns that, if ignored, could result in loss of life. Without these charts, ships are in danger and the lives of those on board the ship may be in jeopardy.

Imagine how unnerving it would be to guide a ship through a narrow, rocky channel that has never been navigated! At any moment, the vessel could run aground, strike a rock or be blown into the jagged edges of the reef. And it is no wonder that, once the passage is navigated that careful notes are kept and shared – so that future sailors won't have to experience the terror of uncharted waters.

Life in a pandemic has been described as uncharted waters. No one is quite sure how to steer clear of dangers. Every day we are bombarded with news of more cases and more deaths as a result of the virus. Some are holding their breath waiting for that sound of the hull of their "ship" striking a rock and being ripped open. For too many people, bad news seems to be unavoidable and imminent.

### Is this how Christ wants us to live?

While none of us can control the pandemic, we most certainly can take a different approach. We do not need to live in fear. We shouldn't be terrorized by the unknown. Think about this:

**There is no such thing as, "uncharted waters,"** if you have the right Captain. We may have no idea how to get through this crisis, but God has had the plan throughout eternity.

This crisis is under the control of our Lord. None of us have ever sailed this way before, but our God has. He is the Master of the sea. He knows how to navigate us through it, He sees every hazard, He already knows how it will all turn out.

Rather than being terrorized by the unknowns, we should place our trust in the One who is known. Instead of being dominated by fear, trust the One who has sailed this way before. It is His ocean, His ship and we are His crew.

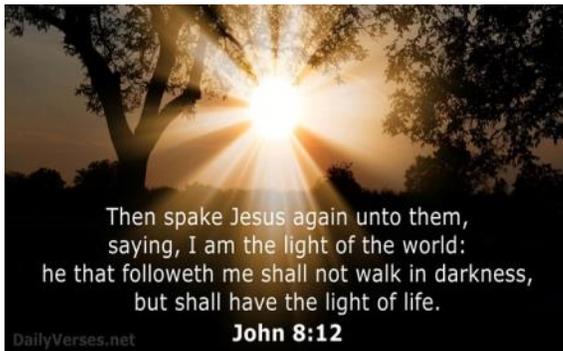
As we are facing these waters that are uncharted by us, make sure He pilots your ship! He will guide us through!

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## Consider these Quotes and Statistics:

*"82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited." Thom Rainer*

*"80% of people who come to Christ were invited to church by someone they knew." Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*

*"A study including more than 15,000 adults revealed that about two-thirds are willing to receive information about a local church from a family member and 56 percent from a friend or neighbor. The message is clear that the unchurched are open to conversations about church." Phillip Nation*

*"When asked if they have a personal responsibility to share their faith with others, 73% of born again Christians said yes. When this conviction is put into practice, however, the numbers shift downward. Only half (52%) of born again Christians say they actually did share the Gospel at least once this past year to someone with different beliefs, in the hope that they might accept Jesus Christ as their Savior." George Barna*

**Let's make a conscious decision to be intentional about inviting our friends, family, neighbors and acquaintances to church and also to faithfully share our faith with the unsaved.**

The Statistics will not be included in the LINK for the foreseeable future.