



LINK

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RICK WHITTER, ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP

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Times are changing. Our world is changing. Ministry is changing. Of course, ***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)*** Other than the Lord, life is in a continual state of flux. Our current season includes strife and natural disasters and pandemics that were unknown a short time ago. Just one year ago, we were dealing with an entirely different set of issues than we are today. Times are changing.

What are churches to do? We are accountable to God to reach the world for Christ, to fulfill the Great Commission. How can we do so when things are changing so very rapidly?

Adapt and overcome! The United States Marine Corps says of themselves, “Marines are trained to improvise, adapt and overcome any obstacle in whatever situation they are needed. They have the willingness to engage and the determination to defeat the enemy until the victory is secured.” I think this is a marvelous statement for Christian leaders to adopt.

By adapting, we are not considering the possibility of adjusting our doctrine, our tenets of faith, our teachings or our convictions. Compromising on Biblical holiness is not part of improvised ministry. But a church that refuses to consider new methods of ministry is headed for trouble. As one of our very own recently said, “Any church that will not adapt will die.” (Pastor Mike Mayberry)

What does it mean to adapt in ministry?

Jesus is an excellent example of adapted or improvised ministry. When the crowds grew to the point that they could not hear the voice of the Savior as He taught, He boarded a boat and utilized the natural acoustics of the water to project his voice. He improvised (Luke 5, Mark 4). When the crowds stayed with Jesus an unexpectedly long time, He commanded His disciples to feed them and utilized the lunch of a young boy. He adapted (Matthew 14, Mark 6, John 6).

A very important point is - Jesus wasn't actually improvising. He already knew the details of what would happen and He knew what to do. But we don't know what will happen next! That's why we must rely on the One who does! To us, it feels unpredictable, erratic and uncertain, but to Him, it is an excellent ministry opportunity for us. The Lord has known for eternity the exact ministry situations we are dealing with right now. And He has the perfect ministry plan for us to use.

We may not be conducting services like we always have, but we press on. We might not be comfortable with new methods and practices, but we move forward. If you can't preach in the church building, preach outside. If you can't baptize in the river, baptize in a swimming pool. If you can't visit members in the hospital, do a Facetime call with them! Perhaps we feel uncertain and like we can't plan ahead, but we refuse to quit ministering to people! Adapt!

Rather than being discouraged or troubled about what has changed, let us focus on the means that can be utilized to reach this generation. While the finish line is in sight, we still have much work to do. This is no time for the church to slow down or quit. Win the lost through any and all means necessary!

With full passion, a burden for the lost, compassion for the hurting and a keen sense of purpose and calling, we will declare the Word of God to this generation and every generation until the coming of Christ!



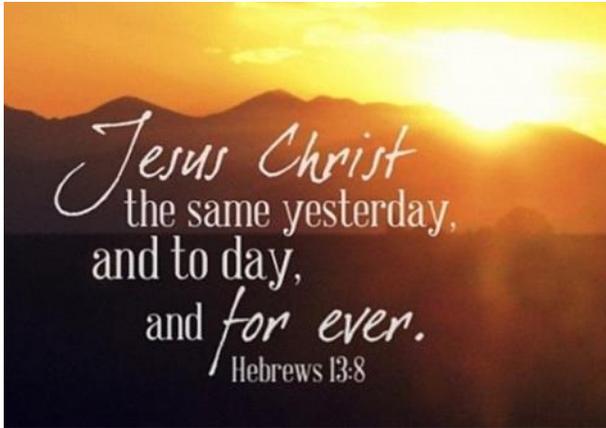
Rick Whitter

ILLINOIS CHURCH OF GOD

P.O. Box 978, Decatur, IL 62525

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