

Thom Rainer Six Mistakes to Avoid as Church Regathers after COVID

1. Assuming that “normal” will return.
2. Neglecting community ministry and outreach.
3. Talking more about problems than opportunities.
4. Failing to seek outside perspectives.
5. Failing to reach the digital mission field.
6. Obsessing about non-returning members.

Resources in Today’s Episode:

- [Five Ways Churches Are Responding to a Second COVID Spike](#)

Notes:

Don’t hope for old normal

2019 – Egypt

2020 – Wilderness

2021 – Promised Land or back to Egypt (Old Normal)

1. Don’t become inwardly focused, fortress mentality doesn’t help!
If you opened new ministries step out in the future
Run into the fire, not away from it; now’s the perfect time to launch eg foster care, adoption; We could take care of foster care problem.
2. BE about the community – eg respite for families with kids; love on kids
The gospel is still the gospel and the hope of the world. We have more time to discuss gospel with neighbors.
3. Don’t focus on the problems. Find your opportunities in it
Evaluate the problems, make adjustments and move to opportunities near
Eg. 70 yr old retired pastor is on line with Facetime!
4. Outside perspectives help us get beyond how we’ve always done it;

Learn from gov't, school and social agencies.

Push back lostness if you feel Christ and his church is the answer.

5. Digital Mission Field – Creative efforts to reach people on line

Some niches – students and children. Sharp material to fill in gaps.

Eg. Digital Backyard Bible Club in Bradenton, FL

From listening to local digital Bible Study then in person services.

Some church plants have begun strictly on line.

Seniors are on WIFI more than expected

6. Don't obsess over non attenders – 20 % will not return.

Trust God for their future, and your future without them.