

Personnel Testimony on Using Technology

April 21, 2020

Ministering to men is hard enough when we are not dealing with a crisis, and can get out, meet with, and spend time with them. Now it is even more complicated by the “Stay-at-Home” orders that have been issued all over the country. I am not naïve enough to believe all of us are abiding by the orders, a few of us may still be meeting in homes or offices and I guess that is alright as long as we honor the social distancing the health officials are asking us to do. But for many, especially for those who have underlying health issues and are staying near their homes, how do we minister to them and stay engaged?

Ministering to men is one of the hardest callings in the local church. Now because of the crisis, many in the ministry are becoming discouraged and practically giving up. But we need to understand there are men out there that still need encouragement. They still need someone to come alongside of them. So, how do we do that? I want to share how I have been accomplishing this for the past month.

The virtual platform. We have all probably heard the word virtual more in the past month than we have in the past year. It has become a common word. It seems as if every church is using a virtual platform to have services on Sunday. Well, as Men’s Ministry Leaders you can too – we all can. I use Zoom.us but there are others one can use such as Google Hangouts, Facetime, and Skype. You can do a search on the internet and find several more.

Before the crisis began, I met with a couple of men early on Tuesday Morning, and another group on Wednesday morning. Both groups have been moved to a virtual platform. The Sunday morning class I lead at my church meet at our normal time virtually; one Sunday I had 31 members on the call. I have setup meetings with individual men’s ministry leaders as well. Though it is not the same as meeting face to face, it is the next best thing. If you have an older generation it may take a couple of times for them to get use to the idea and how to use the platform, but they can do it.

When individuals may not be able to get out because of their concern with an underlying health issue – this is the next best thing. You have no idea how much personal encouragement I receive when I have an opportunity to spend time on a video call with other men or my class. It means so much.

One can use a virtual platform to catchup, mentor a new believer, coach men, or pray. Conducting a small group can even build a community with a purpose. I have been a part of all of these as I have incorporated a virtual platform into my ministry portfolio. We laugh at each other, share stories, blessings, prayer requests. Then we pray for each other just as if we are in the same room. Even if I am the facilitator, I come off these video calls feeling rejuvenated, encouraged, and ready to move forward with whatever God has planned for me.

These are challenging times but listen to what John recorded Jesus saying the John 4:35.

“Listen to what I’m telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, because they are ready for harvest.”

Even in these difficult and challenging times there are men who are hungry for relationships and are open to hear from God. I want to encourage you, if you have not been using a virtual platform to connect with your men – do so, it is not that hard. I will guarantee you; your men will appreciate the time and you will too.

Together in the challenge and adventure to disciple men – Mike