

10 Ideas for Ministering in a COVID - 19 World

What are QB Pastors doing in response to the restrictions? What's working? Who has great ideas? To find that out I've connected with over 20 churches from around our State and have collated the ideas shared in the QB Pastors Facebook Group. I've looked at pastoral and community care, community care, discipleship, evangelism, and prayer. Below is a summary for each of those areas.

*God bless,
Mark Westhuyzen (Director of Church Health Services)*

PASTORAL AND CONNECTION CARE

- **Systematic Phone Calls**
 - Aim to contact everyone in your database on the phone asking: *(adapted from Gateway)*
 - CARE: how are you going? How have you been impacted? How's your soul? What support do you need?
 - CONNECT: who are you connected to (plug into life group, local group, tiny church, care trio etc).
 - CONTACT DETAILS: have we got the right information in file?
 - CONTENT: are you able to access the church service and other media online? Can your kids access our kid's ministry content?
 - CONTRIBUTION: how you able to help? Would you like some help with online giving?
 - COMMIT TO PRAYER: offer and pray during the call.
 - Pay particular attention to the isolated and vulnerable and those who have lost their jobs.
 - Phone people in most impacted industries such as travel, retail, and small business.
 - Consider using a colour coded Google Sheet where leaders can all access up to date information. *(Atherton, Bridgeman and Liberti - Darren Dakers) are happy to share their ideas)*
- **Think Local and Group People Together**
 - Local area leaders the "Suburb Good Samaritans": Allocate local leaders who can provide practical care for people near them, such as getting setup online, shopping for groceries, help around the house. *(Birkdale and Cannon Hill Baptist, Gatton)*
 - "Tiny Church": Allocate EVERYONE into a group for care and support. Meet with group leaders weekly via ZOOM. *(Lifepoint Rothwell)*
 - "Each one call one": Each person makes one call a day to check in with someone from church. Everyone is a carer.
 - "Support Trios": Put the entire congregation into groups of three for weekly contact, prayer and support.
- **Consider Grouping People by Interests**
 - Ask who would normally hangout together? The gardening guys, the craft ladies, the worship team, playgroup mums? *(Lifepointe Sunshine Coast)*
- **Host a Daily Pastoral Catch Up on Facebook Live in Your Closed Group** *(Steve Meharg from One an All Church Los Angeles, formally at Southpine)*
 - Go live each day at the same time, say midday for 20 minutes.
 - Share a devotional reflection on Scripture.
 - Share a story or two about what God is doing.

- Ask for prayer requests and pray for people during the stream and share answer to prayer from previous Pastoral Catch Ups.
- You might like to create a weekly schedule of themes you explore.
- **Record and Share a Daily Devotions.** *(North East Baptist, Rockhampton Tabernacle)*
 - Share your devotion via Facebook, YouTube and your website.
 - Have the pastoral team or other leaders take turns sharing the devotion.
- **Use ZOOM for Leaders Meetings Including Care Team. Weekly!** *(Lifepoint Rothwell, Rockhampton Tabernacle)*
- **Weekly Mailout To Older Members**
 - Post DVD of service, newsletter, and personal note to older members. *(Rockhampton Tabernacle, Bridgeman Baptist)*
- **Contact People Who Attend Ministries BUT Who Aren't Regular Attenders**
 - Phone those who connect through your church's ministries such as playgroups, MOPS, youth and kid's ministry parents, craft groups etc. *(Lifepointe Sunshine Coast)*
- **Train Life Group Leaders on How To Do Pastoral Care and Mobilise Your Care Team**

COMMUNITY HELP

- **Decide What You Can Offer** *(Lifepointe Sunshine Coast)*
 - Work out how you are actually able to help ahead of time.
 - Make a statement about what you can offer.
- **Update your website's landing page to include Community Help** *(Bridgeman, Lifepointe Sunshine Coast and Liberti)*
 - Create links to online forms.
 - I need help (practical help, personal help, someone to talk to).
 - Nominate someone in need *(Bridgeman)*.
 - I need prayer.
 - I can help.
- **Neighbourhood Connect Card**
 - Church families letterbox drop their street with a card including their name, contact, address, and invitation to join a neighbourhood or street Facebook group (Dan Harding from Meridan Community Church).
- **Letterbox drop the neighbourhood with information about your church can help** *(church@the Gabba, Rockhampton Tabernacle)*
- **Connect with School Chaplains**
 - Chaplains often know the needs of the community better than Churches *(Lifepoint Rothwell)*.
- **Offer Hampers and Supermarket vouchers for those who are struggling** *(Kruger, Gateway, Lifepointe Sunshine Coast, Mosaic, church@the Gabba, Cleveland), Bridgeman)*

- Think about the logistics of drop of and pick up of hamper supplies in light of social distancing measures.
- Stock your foodbank / freezer.
- **Boredom Busters** (*Gateway*)
 - Create a “boredom buster bag” for primary age kids. Place activities, games, challenges, puzzles etc in zip lock bags and hang them in trees around the neighbourhood in front of church house members house.
 - Let locals know through the community Facebook pages.

DISCIPLESHIP

- **ZOOM – STREAM – ZOOM. Bookend your service with small group connection** (*Lifepoint Rothwell*)
 - Have groups meet via Zoom 10 minutes before life stream / service time to connect, pray and invite others.
 - Then move across to online streaming via YouTube, Church Online Platform, Vimeo or Facebook for actual service.
 - After the service everyone moves back into their Zoom groups to connect, discuss, share, prayer, “post church hangs” etc.
- **ZOOM Life Groups**
 - Host can share video content via screen share (such as RightNow Media teaching or Bible Project).
 - Tips for Life Groups on Zoom:
 - The Zoom host / Group Leader needs to take a more direct role in managing the chat in the group, like a panel host, in order to stop everyone talking at once.
 - Share 10-15min of input. This can be via video screensharing.
 - Host controls the discussion.
 - Use breakout rooms for prayer / accountability.
- **One on One online Discipleship**
 - Mobilize your church to disciple others online, find a resource that works for you.
 - One hour once a week.
- **Make Use of Malyon College**
 - Encourage church attenders and leaders to enrol in theological Study by distance.
- **Put Links on Your Website. Create a Resources Tab**
 - Life Group materials.
 - RightNow Media content (*Brackenridge, Bridgeman, Bowen*).
 - Ministry Grid online content (*Hertford Street*).
 - YouVersion Bible reading plans.
 - Children’s ministry material.
 - Easter devotions.
 - Prayer requests etc.
- **Kids Channel** (*Gateway, Wynnum, Bridgeman, Lifepointe Sunshine Coast*)
 - Create a YouTube Playlist for kids that plays during your service.

- Utilise RightNow Media for streaming Kids Content.
- Create a dedicated Kids YouTube Channel for your church.
- **Use Churchwide Devotion to Keep Everyone on the Same Journey**
 - Make use of Bible Reading Plans and Devotional Material (like John Sweetman's excellent Easter Devotion.
 - Record and post video of pastors leading a devotion.
- **Run Courses Online Through Zoom**
 - Re:Form.
 - Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.
 - Finding your Gifts and Place to Serve.
 - Membership Course.
 - Alpha Marriage Enrichment.
 - Parenting Courses etc.

EVANGELISM

- **Preach the Gospel on in Your Sunday Services with Action Steps** (*Gateway, Bridgeman, Lifepointe Sunshine Coast*)
 - Offer and invitation to Follow Jesus every week.
 - Include next steps for gospel enquirers in your sermons.
 - Make a "I made a decide to follow Jesus" link in your feed or video description. Everyone watching should be able to see where to click if they want to follow Jesus. The link goes to an online form to capture details so a church leader can follow up quickly.
- **Record a Clear Gospel Message (sermon video) and place it on your website, Facebook page, YouTube Channel**
 - Potential Titles:
 - A Message of Hope.
 - Good News in Anxious Times.
 - What Next?
 - Making Sense of 2020.
 - Include I have decided to follow Jesus button/link.
- **Encourage your Church Share the link to Sunday Services. Expect Fruit**
- **Run Alpha online through Zoom <https://www.alpha.org/alpha-online/>**
 - Encourage church to invite friends, neighbours, colleagues, family through personal contact and social media.
 - Use social media to advertise including paid ads through Facebook/Instagram.
 - Focus on the grieving, anxious, confused, and hurting.
 - Create sharable invitations for Alpha or similar. Share. Share. Share.
- **Remind your Church About Missional Opportunities on Their Frontlines** (*Birkdale and Cannon Hill*)
 - Look for easy access into conversations about world events, needs, anxiety and uncertainty.
 - There is a great opportunity!

PRAYER

- **Use Zoom for Regular Prayer Meetings (Daily)** (*Bridgeman, Birkdale and Cannon Hill, Gateway*)
 - Have a pastor or leader host the prayer meeting on Zoom. Ensure you have chosen to mute microphones as people join the meeting
 - Use breakout rooms to split up larger groups into smaller groups
- **Use Email and Social Media Channels**
 - Use social media channels to distribute prayer points, notify of prayer meeting times, and sharing stories for answered prayer.
 - Remember to include those on your postal mailing list. Post prayer information.
- **Stay Abreast of Wider Prayer Initiatives**
- **Direct People to Prayer Meetings After Services**