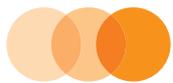


Servant leadership in the context of Coronavirus

Many medical staff have described their experience of this pandemic as like a tsunami. There is an unstoppable wave of pastoral and practical challenges facing church leaders. While in a few places the worst may be over, some countries are in the eye of the storm. For many others - the storm is gathering.



Serving the Mission of God

Jesus sends his church to participate in God's mission - this is what the church is for.

Leaders equip their churches to live out this 'sending', including making Christ known, communicating the gospel of God's grace, making disciples, compassionate care for the poor and vulnerable, and pursuing justice and peace.

What follows are some key themes to help you focus, together with some practical application for the whole of your church.

Serving in practice: combine care for the church with care for those outside

At times of great pressure it's tempting to turn inwards and focus on ourselves. Some inside the church e.g. the vulnerable or dying will need special support. But God's call to the church is to serve and love those outside – as God first loved us.

- Ensure that critical resources, particularly people's time and money, are used to serve both inside and outside the church
- Be wise stewards by avoiding wasteful duplication of effort. For example, rather than setting up another online church service, access the resources that are already online. Then use your resources to meet needs in your community
- Collaborate with others for maximum impact – including other churches, community organisations or government

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit – Romans 15:13.

