



COPING WITH COVID IN MINISTRY

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS HAS
PLUNGED US ALL INTO A GLOBAL
HEALTH CRISIS AND AN ECONOMIC
DOWNTURN.

IT HAS DRAMATICALLY REDEFINED
WHAT A NORMAL LIFE MEANS.

CRISIS

CHINESE 危机 (Jī) WĒIJī, PRONOUNCED Jī.

危机

DANGEROUS - A CHANGING POINT

JAPANESE 危機 ("KIKI")

危機

DANGEROUS - OPPORTUNITY

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also contains the seeds of opportunity.

The truth is that every crisis, while deeply unsettling, also contains the seeds of opportunity.

We do need to recognize that the coronavirus pandemic has not just created a new normal; it has brought into being a new reality.

1. Lockdown
 2. Shelter in Place
 3. Work from Home
 4. Schools Closed
 5. Online Learning
 6. Retail Closed
 7. Social Distancing
 8. Increase in Digital Communication for Relationships
 9. Travel Mostly Suspended
 10. Web Conferencing – Zoom Meetings
 11. Disruption in Global Supplies
 12. Massive unemployment (US 10 million in a matter of weeks)
 13. Cultural institutions such as museums and theaters have closed.
 14. Public gatherings and even weddings have either been postponed or moved online.
- How do we cope with this crisis now?
 - What opportunities does this crisis create?
 - What can be done to anticipate crises in the future and prepare for them?

1

**CHANGE
YOUR
MENTAL
MODEL**

Instead of viewing the present situation as a short-term necessary evil that we should try to leave behind as soon as possible and return to a comfortable pre-crisis past, we should ask how to use the current situation to speed up long overdue changes.

Consider universities: Many have tinkered with online learning but it has been slow. At one stroke, almost in a baptism by fire, schools and universities have been pushed into offering online learning to some [90% of the world's students, according to *The New York Times*.](#)

Hopefully these changes will continue after the crisis has passed and lead to long-term change. Faculty who offer online classes have unique opportunities in three areas:

- They can reinvent their teaching by finding new ways of engaging their students online, such as through the use of humor
- They can enhance their impact by offering their expertise to non-profit organizations, businesses and even governments.
- They can develop innovative ways of incorporating online with classroom learning to develop the next generation

2

LOOK FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES

Organizations that use the shutdown to enhance their digital capabilities and capitalize on existing trends will be able to get closer to offering real-time experiences.

better positioned to succeed in the post-pandemic world.

One way to spot new opportunities is to creatively address people's fears, uncertainties and lack of trust. What do people need at this time and what can you offer them?

3

EXAMINE YOUR TEAM

Who is disengaged? Who do we need to communicate with? What areas do we need to change?

Many companies have on their staff non-productive employees/volunteers. It is possible to build a new talent strategy around a smaller core of focused and passionate employees.

4

DREAM BIG

What is our Dream outcome? If we start there and work backward, we avoid, imaginary obstacles.

5

**FOCUS ON
THE RIGHT
THINGS**

Focus on the ones you minister to and their current needs.

6

**BUILD A
NETWORK**

If you want to go faster go alone. If you want to go farther go together. We will do so much more when we work as a body that compliments one another. Is a local ministry doing an

online action sports focused study, join them instead of starting your own? Are building online content that may help another ministry? Share it!

7

**REINVENT,
INNOVATE &
EXPERIMENT**

Do not be afraid to try new things.

8

**TWEAK
YOUR
MODEL**

Learn and make adjustments.

DISCUSS

**TAKE 5 MINUTES IN
GROUPS:**

HOW HAS THIS GLOBAL
HEALTH CRISIS CHANGED
YOUR MINISTRY AND HOW
HAS YOUR MINISTRY
ADAPTED?