

2021 Canadian Church Leaders Survey

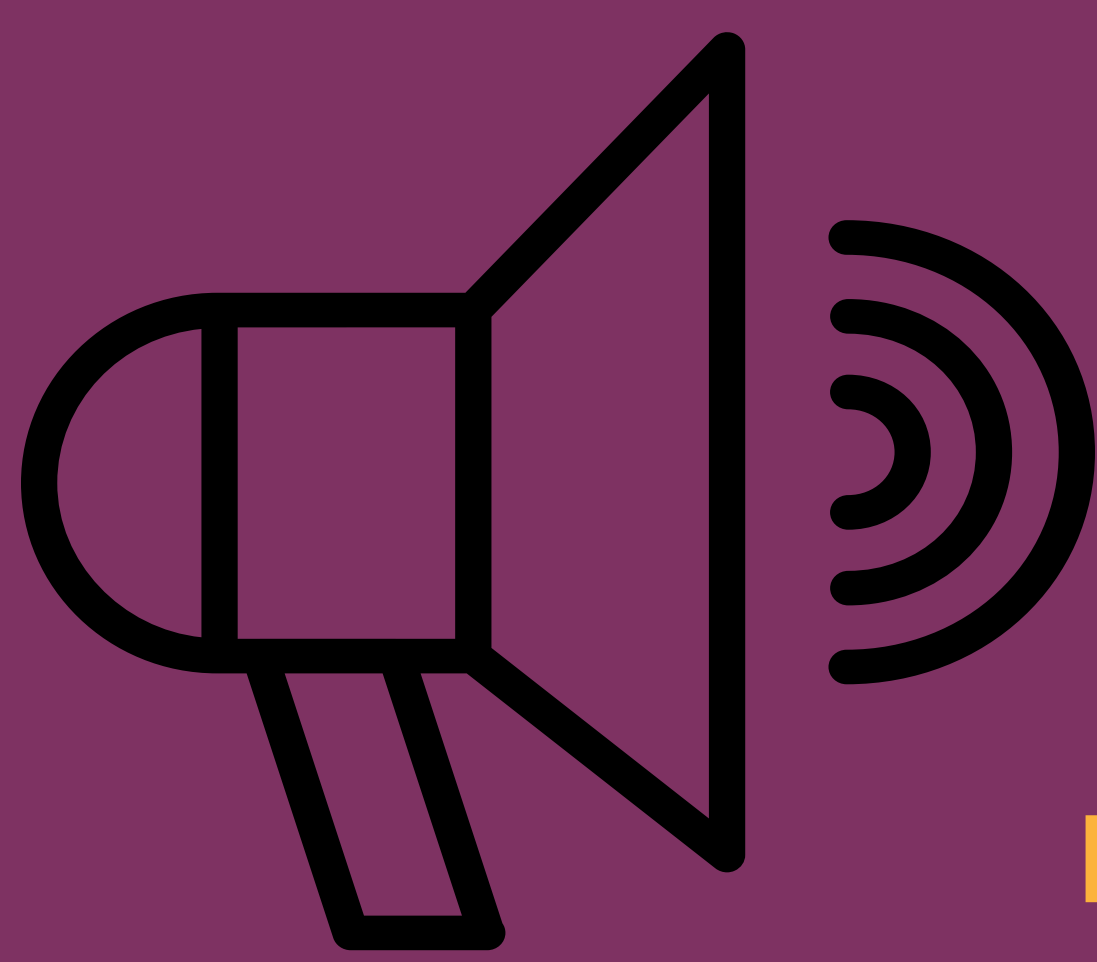
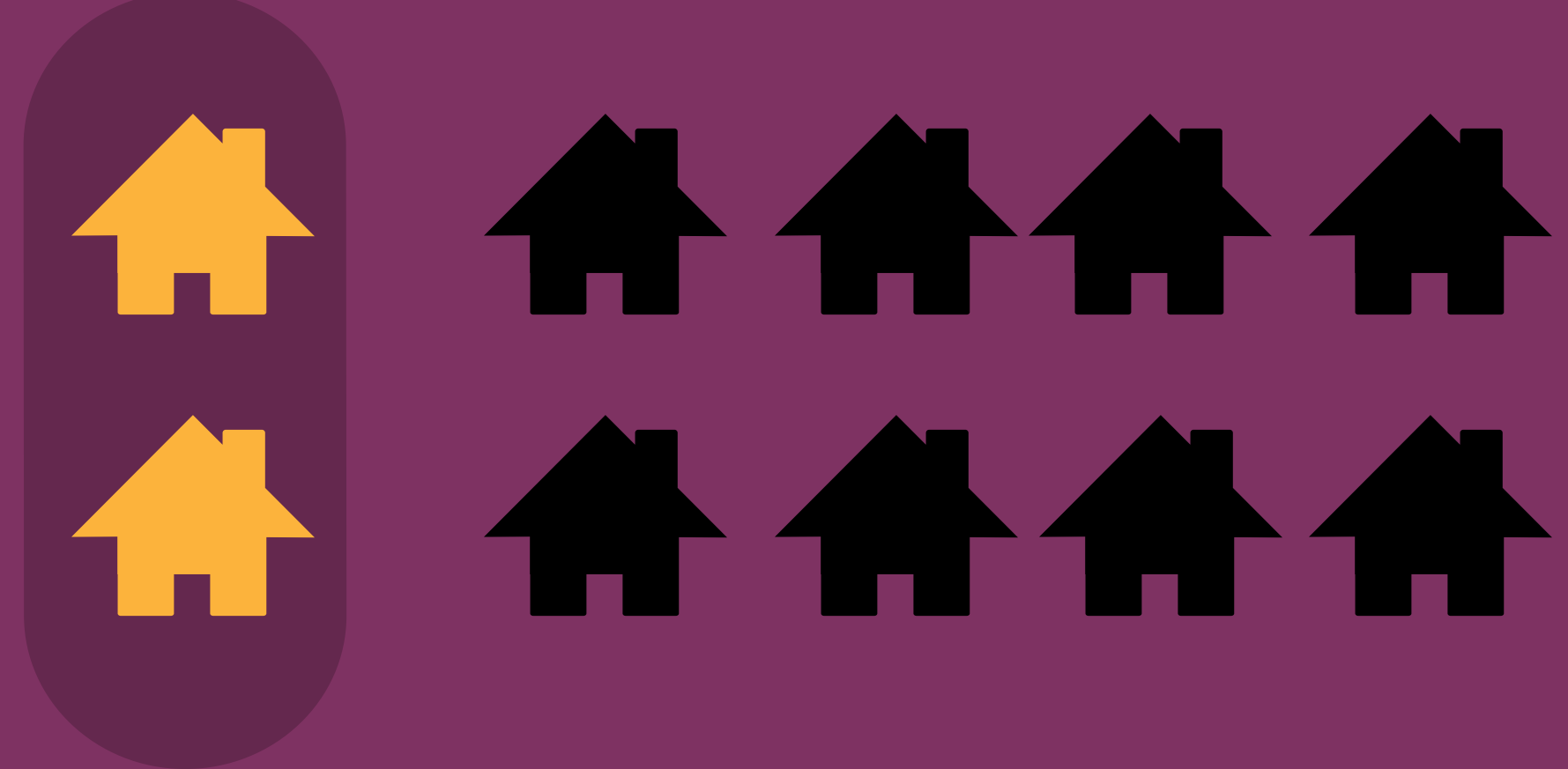
*This survey was conducted between **June 14 and August 14, 2021** - with **131 participants** (specifically church leaders) from across Canada.

75% of church leaders are struggling with **mental, emotional, physical health**.



*1/4 of leaders struggle with anger

Only **2/10** respondents indicated disciple making as a significant mandate of theirs during the pandemic.



1/3

of leaders **highlighted** God's call on their life as significant learning during the Covid pandemic.

God's presence was palpable to them!

8/10

reported God revealed his **love, mercy and peace** to them during the pandemic.

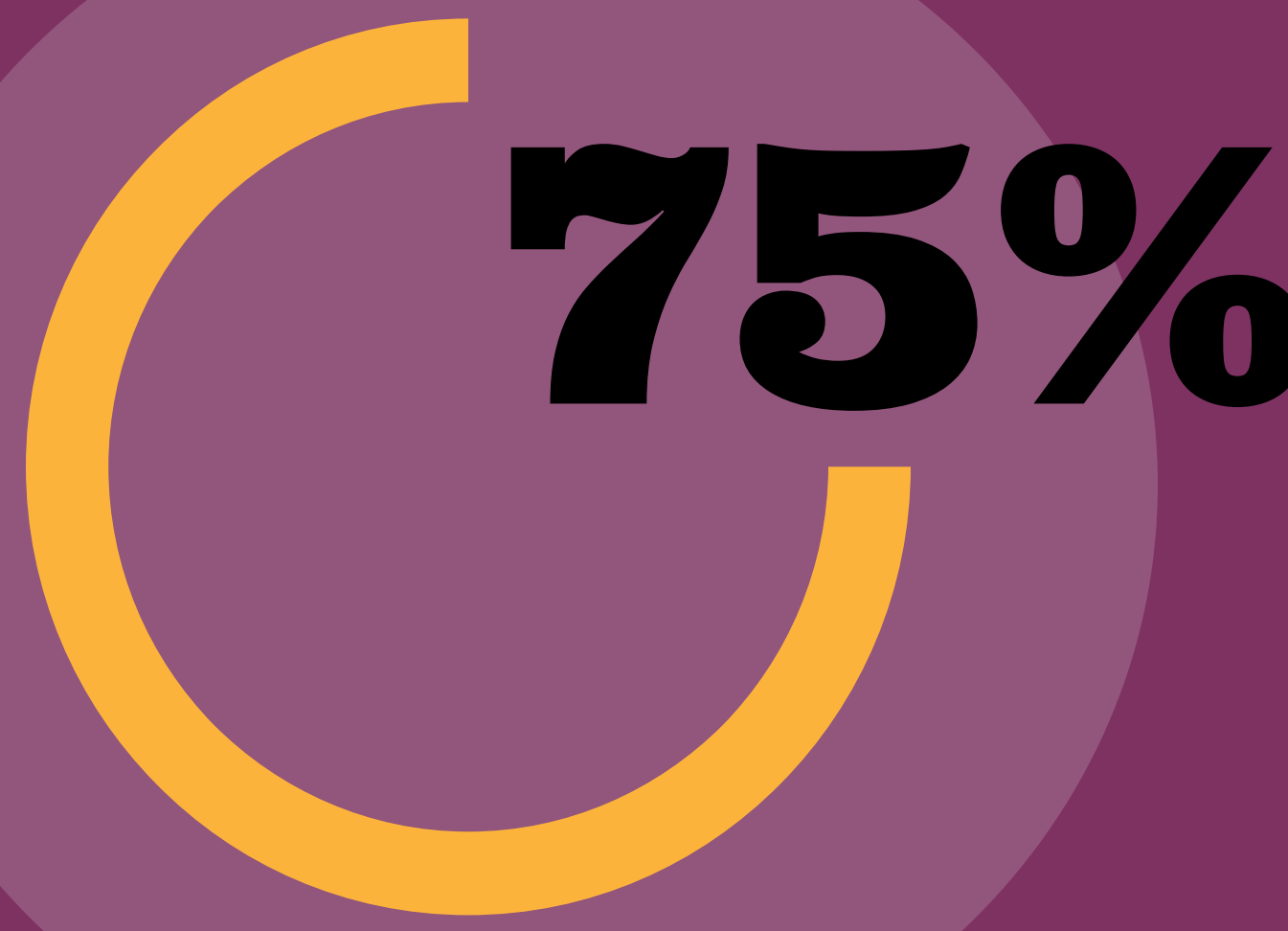


Almost **6/10** leaders reported *little to no change* in their ministry of the word or adapted their homiletical approach in light of the pandemic.

Further, more than **6/10** respondents skipped this question altogether!



Less than **1/3** of leaders reported they will do ministry differently now based on pre-pandemic ministry activity.



reported significant **increase in intimacy** with Jesus and empowerment in the Spirit. However, this did not translate to evangelistic mission.



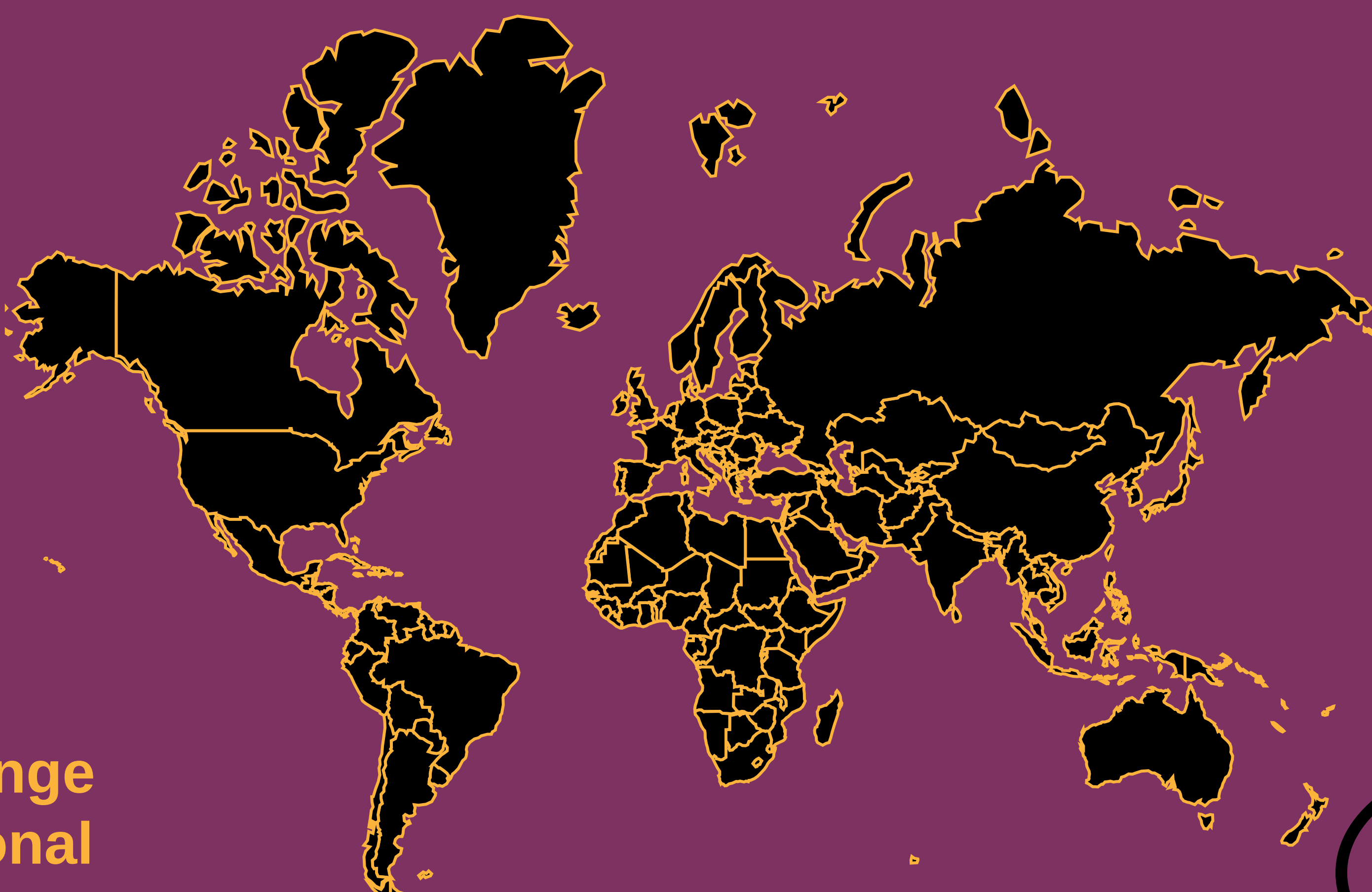
Where are the **issacharites**?
[issacharites - people who know the times and discern what to do]



Where is the church's evangelistic **mojo/fervency**?



Where are the **change agents and missional innovators**?



Where are the **disciple makers**?

2021- Canadian Church Leaders Survey

Life, Love and Mission in the Time of Pandemic

Please Note: this survey was conducted between **June 14th and August 14th, 2021** – with 131 participants (specifically church leaders) from across Canada.

Question 1

How do you understand the effects of the pandemic on your spiritual journey since March 2020?

For example, have the social distancing measures, the wearing of health masks, isolation, quarantines, and limitations on religious gatherings had emotional and spiritual impacts on you and your work? (please check one or more of the following boxes that best reflect your experience since March 2020).

	%	#	No. of comments	% On all participants
			20	15.27%
Since the beginning of the pandemic, my spiritual path seems more difficult and my ministerial work more complex because of the collective efforts needed to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.	40.54%	30		
Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have had to make several adjustments in my schedule and in the way I work in order to keep a balance between public ministry and my spiritual nurturing due to the efforts needed to stop the spread of COVID-19.	56.76%	42		
Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have had to significantly adapt my spiritual practices in order to continue my own faith journey and that of my community due to the collective efforts needed to stop the spread of COVID-19.	24.32%	18		
Since the beginning of the pandemic, I feel that my spiritual journey seems to be stagnant and that my Christian community is suffering because of the radical changes caused by the collective efforts needed to stop the spread of COVID-19.	10.81%	8		
Since the beginning of the pandemic, I feel that my spiritual journey as well as my ministry are changing for the better in ways that I did not anticipate until March 2020.	37.84%	28		

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I believe that my spiritual journey and conversation with Jesus has deepened through the circumstances that the pandemic has imposed on my pastoral and missionary work.	56.76%	42	
	Answered	74	
	Skipped	57	

Question One - Comments Received

1 – I started my role in May of 2020, so came in after restrictions had already been implemented.

2 - A challenging season of many challenges and opportunities. I have clung to my spiritual disciplines and mentoring groups and recognized God can us this time to purify and encourage the church and my own heart. If we are open!

3 - I have learned to walk more closely with the Lord. I've developed a deeper trust in Him, and I've been more intentional in my spiritual practices.

4 - It definitely made ministry work more complex and stressful at the same time. But it also forces me to slow down and helped me to build a spiritual rhythm that informs, equips, and pours into me so that I can minister out of that. It also gave me time to reflect on what, why, and how of what I was doing during and outside of COVID.

5 - It has not just been the pandemic, but also a reckoning with my own lack of involvement toward issues of systemic racial injustice, inequality, and even my own understanding and approach to scripture has undergone a massive change that was sparked by the stress and strain of the pandemic. In some ways, my faith in Jesus is even stronger than it ever was, however, my faith in the church to represent Jesus and his love to our world, has never been lower.

6 - The most difficult pieces for me personally are school closures. As a leader with young children, I have worked reduced hours and needed to provide more childcare for my children. It has been exhausting to say the least. At times it has affected my spiritual journey as well. As a church plant, it has greatly affected how we reach out to our city and our neighbours. Growth is slow. However, God is working. In addition, because we did not have established practices before the pandemic, we have been able to pivot very easily. Zoom has not been easy, but we have adapted. We now meet for worship in a park and its lovely.

7 - Senior pastor got radical and believes the pandemic brought in a new reformation of the church. He canceled all church programs and events and discontinued my role as family pastor and group leader. He moved the church into missionary training and outreach. The church is weaker because of it and a church split is happening. It's a fight over spiritual pathway.

8 - Love your questions, but they could've been simplified using a preamble to the question and then multiple choice.

9 - I have been freed from outcomes and an identity in ministry due to the challenges and dependence on Jesus. Everything continues to abruptly change not just because of the pandemic but also its effects on the congregation and individuals. My relationship with Jesus is the most constant and safe place I have.

10 - I know it might seem contradictory to select that both my journey seems to be stagnant and that my journey with Christ has deepened through the pandemic, but I believe that both are true in different ways. The community aspect of faith has definitely been negatively impacted, but in the difficulties of covid, God has revealed new things and reminded me of His sovereignty and love, even when circumstance doesn't reflect that.

11 - I will clarify the implications of social distancing, masks, the limiting of those allowed in our church buildings has been extremely detrimental to the congregation and those I minister to. The fear of man and of what "the government" may do has led many away from the gospel and into a "victim mentality" we have seen a steady moving away from Christ and into a survival mode that is not in unison with the Holy Spirits voice.

12 - My personal faith journey has been strong (both before and after the pandemic). No significant change other than expected growth. My public/church ministry has changed dramatically.

13 - None of these are fully accurate. I don't believe in the idea of giving into tyrants or rules that limit the work of God. If you succumb & allow the government & fear to impose something on you, you may never have really been serving the Lord but rather just eager to please the government.

14 - These questions are worded in a way that makes it difficult to answer. My spiritual life and ministerial life were not correlated so strongly that when one thing was bad the other thing was also bad and vice versa. You would have achieved better results and answers to these questions by separating the two situations more in your questions. I fear my answers will not be incredibly helpful to you.

15 - During the pandemic, there has been necessary shifts in routine due to restrictions, but some of that has been helpful in identifying needed shifts in ministry focus and allowing for greater amounts of focused time with the Lord. Our church has definitely hurt with the lack of community, but there are some bright spots where smaller discipleship pockets are emerging and growing in health.

16 - There is a difference between "stagnant" and "suffering". Covid has been a major stressor on the relationships within our ministry community, but this has not necessarily been a negative thing. The "sufferings" have drawn many people into a deeper more mature walk with Jesus while others have not been able to get past their anger in not being able to do "church" as they would wish. Covid has exposed a consumer Christianity and an immature faith among many long-standing Christians. There is a sifting that has taken place that, although painful, is not without its rewards in seeing the maturing in many. Ministry has been more complex and as a leader who is the "lightening rod" for the disenfranchised, it has been more personally painful, but there is also a depth to be seen in a way that I have not seen in almost 24 years of pastoral ministry.

17 - Changes were necessary personally as well as corporately, and it's too early to know how the pandemic will have affected the ministry I'm involved in. However, the necessity to pivot early on has given a completely new perspective on reaching the lost that we will incorporate going forward once 'normal' is reached (whatever that is).

18 - I believe the pandemic offered an opportunity to slow down, to prioritize Jesus in the everyday through prayer, Bible reading, and journaling, and to focus on my physical place in a home & neighbourhood. Beyond time with Jesus, I have focused on simple routines like walking for about an hour a day, listening to a few podcasts, reading and audio books. Overall, I've felt very much that I've been engaging with my life challenges, my family, and those I serve in ministry out of a deeper place of peace and joy that comes from the Holy Spirit.

19 - Our Lord has given us the grace to slow down and think through the mission of the church. He has given us time with key leaders and family. He has given me a greater desire to make pastoral phone calls and Zoom calls.

20 - I had COVID-19 in early March 2020 and almost died. It has changed my perspective dramatically. I think the institutional pillars of the Church are crumbling and we are being called back to a deep abiding relationship with Jesus. This is a Selah Season!

Question 2

To what extent are you experiencing the Divine Presence of Christ being manifested through you to others?

	%	N	No. of comments 15	% On all participants 11.45%
Always	2.82%	2		
Usually	50.70%	36		
Sometimes	38.03%	27		
Rarely	8.45%	6		
Never	0.00%	0		
	Answered	71		
	Skipped	60		

Question Two - Comments Received

1 - Through the ministry of encouragement, and leading worship/preaching.

2 - My interaction with others has been so limited that I see the evidence of His divine presence only through the few responses to my digital content that get back to me.

3 - Most of our church has gone radio silent during the pandemic. I do not get replies to emails, messages, or phone calls from my congregation. I feel as though I have been shut out by many/most of my congregation. In the rare moments when someone does reach out with questions or a desire to talk, I have found the richness of Christ's presence in our conversations.

4 - This question is worded oddly.

5 - As a Pastor it is infrequent.

6 - It is always happening but I'm not always aware. I certainly have less contact and ministry with others as a result of the pandemic.

7 - Closer prayer relationships with our prayer group, increased opportunity, or willingness to help others in practical ways during this time for me and others in our church.

8 - I am in continual commune with Christ. He is speaking very loudly, and I trust His leading regarding ministry to others.

9 - Usually in Zoom conversations. I felt it happened more frequently when I could meet people in person.

10 - I should say there has been an increase in this during the pandemic.

11 - To be what has been described as a "non-anxious presence in an anxious world" has added stability to those who have been anxious either with their fears related to Covid or their fears related to whether the church will survive the relational tensions that the season of Covid has brought to the surface. I have become more aware of the need to be a medium for Christ's presence while finding my stability from others outside of my ministry context.

12 - Wow. That's lofty language! It's good of course, but also very "high". What I'd say more confidently: I am with people while experiencing greater gospel joy. I am more aware of the Divine Presence of Christ not so much through me to others but with me and with others. He's so good and He is enough ... even for plans on pause, even for struggling church plants, even for our broken and dying bodies, even for an uncertain future! Lord, save us from our need for success on our own terms (Matthew 19:16-30). May we see even more clearly how we already have all things in You!

13 - God has given me insights and methods that I could not have thought of on my own. He has given me dreams that confirm directions we have taken as a congregation.

14 - I don't know what this question even means.

15 - The Holy Spirit dwells within me and desires to demonstrate the lavish love of the Father through me in service, authentic relationships, and prayer with acts of power in healing. I was directed not to pray for Divine Appointments - I am a Divine Appointment. I bring Jesus wherever I go.

Question 3

How satisfied are you with the care your church, or faith community, is providing to the poor and marginalized during the pandemic?

	%	N	No. of comments 17	% On all participants 12.98%
Very satisfied	16.67%	12		
Satisfied	23.61%	17		
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	29.17%	21		
Dissatisfied	23.61%	17		
Very dissatisfied	6.94%	5		
	Answered	72		
	Skipped	59		

Question Three - Comments Received

1 - I have just made a transition as of July 1st after 22 years in one spot. The former church did a reasonable job of being aware of the those who had need in that community. But it certainly could have been more engaged. The current church I think has a conscious way of supporting and marginalized, but I am learning yet.

2 - We have focused on food security.

3 - A couple little pushes to donate to community fridges, and an effort (just started) that we're waiting for follow through on.

4 - Due to a singularly large donation to our benevolent fund early in the pandemic, we were able to provide financial resources to partner charities in our city that are directly caring for the poor and marginalized. Our church felt as though it had done something good, but in reality, 85% of the funds we redirected came from 1 donor.

5 - We gave supplies to the mental health ward at the local hospital that the government funding does not cover. We bought toothbrushes, hair elastics, floss, menstrual pads, conditioner, deodorant, etc. We also wrote thank you cards for the nursing staff.

6 - We have increased and become more engaged, especially our full-time staff.

7 - We continued to put together hampers for families in need around Christmastime, we had members of our church form a justice & compassion team to better identify the needs in our neighbourhood, and we reached out to a seniors residence that just opened up, bringing each

resident cards and flowers, inviting them into 'pen pal' type relationships, and have started a semi-regular Bible study via zoom for the residents.

8 - Fundraising for our missions organization, passed on needs to our community, but only individual efforts to reach out in our city, and those curtailed because of restrictions.

9 - Unfortunately, the church has refused to care for others. They are in survival mode and the other church leaders have not followed the leading of those of us who have endeavored to for the marginalized. They are Afraid to move out of the church and advocate for the hurting and abused.

10 - Nothing. My church is a Chinese church and are afraid of and actively avoid the poor (unless they're Chinese, which is not the case in our context). When poor or marginalized people enter our church on a Sunday morning, they are driven away unless I'm there to intercept them.

11 - The broader church seemed to be really happy to minister to those who were online & close their doors.

12 - I would say that we've seen people step up in significant ways in serving their 'neighbourhood', including family, people in the church, and even their physical neighbourhoods. There is always room to grow in this, but there have been some encouraging signs here.

13 - This is a mixed question. Many individuals and pockets of the church have reached out in creative ways which has been great to see, but a coordinated response by the church as a whole has been difficult due to internal conflicts in how to respond to covid restrictions. For many, the need to fight for freedoms is described as the "loving response" and the truly marginalized have been largely ignored. Although many individuals / small groups did some great things, there were many missed opportunities for the church as a whole.

14 - I've been frustrated over this. We've done well with Sunday stuff and our small groups are doing quite well. But we haven't activated to help a food bank or to connect with isolated seniors or anything like that. We were generous to a refugee sponsorship need in partnership with other churches so that was encouraging to see.

15 - This congregation has a great desire to bless the marginalized and poor. They are struggling to put desire into action. There is a plan for moving forward but we are in beginning stages.

16 - Many/most of our people are more concerned about their own losses than the needs of others. self-health and family survival has come before meeting the needs of others or the community. I wish that we were less selfish.

17 - I was sidelined with the after-effects of COVID-19 and did not actively participate in altruistic work. Instead, I've been mentoring a couple dozen Kingdom Leaders one-on-one via Zoom - folks from across North America & Europe who in turn are serving the marginalized!

Question 4

What has been your greatest personal challenge during this COVID-19 season?

	%	N	No. of comments 15	% On all participants 11.45%
Manage my schedule and work habits	36.8%	25	.	
Manage my relationships with family and friends	10.3%	7		
Managing my thoughts and feelings about the pandemic	20.6%	14		
Managing my frustrations and anger	23.5%	16		
Manage my physical and mental health	32.4%	22		
Manage my emotions and thoughts in general	19.1%	13		
Managing my spiritual practices	14.7%	10	.	
Manage personal issues	10.3%	7		
Managing marriage issues	2.9%	2		
Managing family issues	10.3%	7		
Managing financial issues	5.9%	4		
Managing conflict issues in my faith community or church	35.3%	24		

Question Four - Comments Received

1 - The pandemic became a catalyst in an ongoing spiritual concern, resulting in a few people leaving our spiritual community.

2 - The self-centered, angry response of some believers toward the restrictions of the pandemic has been a challenge. I have been personally attacked by leaders who should know better. Yet the majority have been willingly compliant and supportive.

3 - Frustration regarding public health restrictions.

4 - My housing situation was in flux for a while. My actual position as church staff has been in flux. Some family crisis occurred. I only moved to my city September 2019, so all things are new and tricky.

5 - Deep isolation from community and congregation, having to work alone 95% of the time due to being a solo lead pastor. For the first 13 months of the pandemic, I averaged a 55-hour

workweek, and at one point when we resumed in-person services, I worked 43 days straight without a day off. All of this compounded into mental health issues that I have been seeing a counsellor about and put significant strain on my family and children too. Our church finances have also been deeply demoralizing, with government subsidies barely able to keep us afloat as our cash reserves continue to dwindle.

6 - Loneliness, isolation.

7 - I have been so sad to see disengagement and people who have left the church during this time. I'm grieving and working harder with hope, but it is a resilient practice of faith for me to continue.

8 - Managing the constant need to pivot to make things work added to the reality that everyone on my team is working remotely which makes team work so much harder.

9 - Massive change in my family. Moderate to Severe clinical depression.

10 - I would say that having more time of isolation has highlighted my proclivity to distracting myself with entertainment rather than leaning into healthy habits. Also, I have had to switch off a lot of news and social media so that I'm not so pandemic-centered in my thinking and feeling. It has been good to spend less time there and more time in the Word.

11 - Close personal bereavements in the midst of restrictions have been emotionally challenging. I have had to transition from a heavy travel-based schedule to a primarily home-based schedule.

12 - I'm sure I'm an outlier here... the 15 months of the pandemic have been a gift! I am a camp director, and we needed this time to do maintenance and to improve our facilities.

13 - We've had to navigate a bunch of theological stuff. Turns out one of our young developing leaders is a theologian. That's meant hours and hours of conversation and debate. I also learned that some in our church believe strongly that communion can only occur in person. This thinking, combined with an over-emphasis on Sunday worship gatherings as "the" reason for church (this is coming most strongly from Christian men in their 30's as well as some others), has inclined a vocal minority in our church to advocate non-compliance. Again, hours invested in circular discussion around irresolvable tensions. Ugh! Maranatha! It's been good to see that we've been able to engage these tensions with respect and (most of the time) patient humility. I'm not very good at that personally, so God has been showing me how easily I can be triggered when I find that others disagree with me on theology.

14 - The pandemic has meant that my wife and I have travelled to different provinces for our work and to care for children and grandchildren. We have seen less of each other than we anticipated prior to the pandemic. God has given us the grace to manage this but it has meant extra effort was needed.

15 - The frustration of planning events multiple times, only to have to cancel or postpone the event.

Question 5

Could you describe, in order of importance from the following list of characteristics, how the love of Jesus has manifested itself in your daily life since March 2020?

	Score	N	Average in %
Altruism	6.14	56	44.3%
Consolation	7.29	58	44.3%
Fairness	4.68	57	45.8%
Forgiveness	7.29	59	45.0%
Honesty	6.58	59	45.0%
Honorable	4.87	58	44.3%
Hope	9.91	58	45.0%
Humility	7.84	57	44.3%
Kindness	8.38	56	44.3%
Patience	8.91	58	42.7%
Perseverance	10.20	60	42.0%
Selflessness	7.16	59	39.7%
Trust	10.03	59	38.2%
Truth	7.82	60	37.4%
N/A	1.79	25	19.1%
	Answered		6000.0%
	Skipped		7100.0%

Question 6

With regard to the previous question, did God use other people to lead you to his love?

	%	N	No. of comments 15	% On all participants 11.45%
Strongly agree	31.15%	19		
Agree	47.54%	29		
Neither agree nor disagree	18.03%	11		
Disagree	1.64%	1		
Strongly disagree	1.64%	1		
	Answered	61		
	Skipped	70		

Question 6 - Comments Received

1 - Spiritual Director. The prayers and encouragement of the saints. Valued mentors and wise counsellors. Prayer team engagement. An apt word. Encouraging. Challenging.

2 - Mentoring relationship, accountability relationship and a small group.

3 - More and more I have experienced how God uses the body of Christ - each individual part - to build me up individually - and us corporately. I definitely saw that in our board over COVID as we searched the scriptures and came into a miraculous unity.

4 - A few long-term relationships have deepened and been a source of seeing God's love. Each of these relationships has been with people in other vocational ministries.

5 - My weekly prayer meeting on Tuesdays with my intercessors. Prayer Ministry with a spiritual mentor. A Bible study member highlighting something about Christ in the text that I had overlooked.

6 - A friend of ours from church needed a place to live, due to a fire at her apartment, so she stayed with us for a few months. Was a really mutually enriching time. Also, through inner healing prayer training at my church I experienced a lot of God's love and through God connections with people online through ministry and life. Also just appreciating the time more in person with friends and loved ones.

7 - Straight from the source.

8 - Our prayer group, praying for others and hearing their concerns and how they bring them to God, a very needy person who stretched my capacity to love.

9 - Another pastor I regularly connect and pray with.

10 - Our small group continued strong throughout the pandemic. This was critical to overall well-being and sustainability.

11 - During the pandemic, there were many other connections / groups that were very helpful in continually leading me back to God's love and faithfulness.

12 - The previous question is confusing. I don't see it as possible to rate these in order as they ebb, and flow simultaneously given daily context. Approaching life with a desire for humility and selflessness to serve others is the hoped-for posture.

13 - I live at camp, in community. Most of what God does in my life is through other people.

14 - God has used many circumstances and people to remind us of the love of God.

15 - The Lord always uses people to encourage, comfort and challenge me.

Question 7

2021 With regard to the previous question, did God use other people to lead you to these new spiritual learnings and discoveries

	%	N	No. of comments 7	% On all participants
Strongly agree	27.87%	17		
Agree	40.98%	25		
Neither agree nor disagree	24.59%	15		
Disagree	6.56%	4		
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0		
	Answered	61		
	Skipped	70		

Question Seven - Comments Received

- 1 - Day by day. Sometimes via intentional connections, sometimes in the moment.
- 2 - Participated in a masters level spiritual formation course.
- 3 - My spiritual learnings and discoveries came through reading scripture and books that have helped me to see the Bible in a new light.
- 4 - Through personal devotion and prayer. A spiritual director and my wife have been great sounding boards who affirm my revelation.
- 5 - The Holy Spirit spoke direct revelations to me as well as others.
- 6 - Most of this came from drilling down on intimacy with Jesus. Some support from podcasts, but I did not feel like other spiritual leaders contributed significantly.
- 7 - Those same groups were good for listening, challenging thinking, and sharing ideas that helped lead to new learnings (or self-discoveries).

Question 8

What have been your spiritual discoveries and learnings over the past fifteen months? In order of priority from 1 (most important) to 11 (least important).

	Less Important (from 8 to 11)		Important (from 5 and 7)	Highly Important (from 1 to 4)			N/A		All Respondents	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Total	Score
God's love	16.7%	8	18.8%	9	54.2%	26	4.2%	2	45	8.26
God's generosity	37.5%	18	20.8%	10	20.8%	10	6.3%	3	41	5.91
God's wisdom	14.3%	7	40.8%	20	20.4%	10	4.1%	2	39	6.77
God's creativity	40.8%	20	28.6%	14	16.3%	8	8.2%	4	46	5.36
God's peace	10.0%	5	36.0%	18	34.0%	17	4.0%	2	42	7.52
God's joy	28.9%	13	37.8%	17	13.3%	6	6.7%	3	39	5.67
God's hope	23.4%	11	31.9%	15	38.3%	18	4.3%	2	46	6.89
God's call	36.7%	18	20.4%	10	32.7%	16	6.1%	3	47	6.26
God's gifts	61.7%	29	19.2%	9	6.4%	3	8.5%	4	45	3.77
God's awareness	47.9%	23	16.7%	8	25.0%	12	8.3%	4	47	5.16
God's protection	39.6%	19	12.5%	6	37.5%	18	4.2%	2	45	6.04
			Answered	53						
			Skipped	78						

Question 9

Regarding the previous question, what is your level of agreement with the following statement, "Others may be people who identify as being from... ":

	Strongly agree & agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree & strongly disagree		Total	Weighted Average
	%	N	%	N	%	N	N	Scores / 5
Christian faith	89.7%	35	10.3%	4	0.0%	0	39	4.46
Evangelical faith	82.5%	33	15.0%	6	2.5%	1	40	4.22
Protestant faith	73.7%	28	21.1%	8	5.3%	2	38	4.03
Catholic faith	48.7%	18	24.3%	9	27.0%	10	37	3.3
Orthodox faith	25.0%	9	38.9%	14	36.1%	13	36	2.89
Another religion	22.2%	8	30.6%	11	47.2%	17	36	2.64
Humanistic beliefs	29.7%	11	29.7%	11	40.5%	15	37	2.78
Atheist beliefs	22.2%	8	33.3%	12	44.4%	16	36	2.64
No particular religious beliefs	29.7%	11	29.7%	11	40.5%	15	37	2.84
			Answered	40				
			Skipped	91				

Question 10

Did your intimacy with Jesus during the pandemic give you the empowerment of the Spirit during this season?

	%	N	No. of comments 8	% On all participants 6.1%
Very clearly	41.51%	22		
Clearly	33.96%	18		
More or less clearly	13.21%	7		
Not so clearly	11.32%	6		
Not at all	0.00%	0		
	Answered	53		
	Skipped	78		

Question Ten - Comments Received

- 1 - Meeting with the Lord in times of reflection and listening, worship, in creation.
- 2 - Occasionally I felt empowered by the spirit in my preaching, but it was rare and primarily in times when I was preaching to engage with current social issues (BLM, Christian Nationalism,) and how we as Jesus followers ought to respond with love and grace.
- 3 - Dealing with a particular difficult person, I experienced the Spirit's love when I didn't have it myself. With another person, I experienced protection and patience -- although this was harder.
- 4 - In the aspect of prophecy and discernment very high. Vision and dreams have been very prevalent.
- 5 - I definitely would not have made it through the busyness of the last 16 months without His power.
- 6 - question 10 & 11 were unclear to me as to what you were trying to ask.
- 7 - By His grace and loving care, I received clear direction and confirmation of His direction.
- 8 - I believe I was directed and empowered to become a "Grandfather" in the Body of Christ.

Question 11

Did you take this season as an opportunity to relaunch your church?

	%	N	No. of comments 14	% On all participants 10.7%
Yes	32.0%	16		
No	36.0%	18		
N/A	32.0%	16		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Eleven - Comments Received

1 - Reconsider all programming, physical space, and focus.

2 - Again, started a new ministry, not sure how to answer. Certainly, the church I left is facing a significant change season. I'm also uncertain of the context and definition of 're-launch'.

3 - All 5 churches in our denomination closed in our city and 2 new ones are being launched this fall.

4 - Online, outdoors and in person.

5 - We relaunched in a way in the form of house churches, for a season, and once that was no longer allowed by the guidelines, we shifted back to solely online, until it was safe and felt like the right time to relaunch an in-person churchwide worship gathering. Our house church season strengthened the core of some of our Community Groups, which continued to meet throughout the pandemic in various forms (in person, outdoors, online etc.)

6 - Maybe not relaunch but definitely to adapt.

7 - Moved a lot of things online and did a lot more personal contacting of people.

8 - Despite my heart for the Church going forward others in leadership had no vision for growing Christ's church and as we are not the main leaders in our church we were not in the position to lead the church forward as the Spirit was directing. We however worked on growing our parachurch organization in this time and attempted to move forward.

9 - My wife and I were actually asked to prayerfully consider being the lead pastors of a church re-plant. After much prayer and consideration, we accepted the invitation, and we have seen the hand of God for sure.

10 - It has given us an opportunity to look at what we had been doing and that was not producing any fruit and finding different was to serve our body and community. We also learned what we didn't need to do anymore.

11 - In the sense that we went to online services and online life groups. We hope to do more in terms of re-thinking / re-launching in the coming months / years.

12 - Huge gift in terms of improving the physical plant.

13 - We did a complete Transitional Ministry during the time of the pandemic.

14 - I am retired from Parish Ministry and focus now on mentoring others.

Question 12

Did you use online platforms for communication and ministry during the pandemic?

	%	N	No. of comments 18	% On all participants 13.7%
Always	82.0%	41		
Usually	8.0%	4		
Sometimes	8.0%	4		
Rarely	2.0%	1		
Never	0.0%	0		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Twelve - Comments Received

- 1 - Zoom and Google meet to gather in large, small and one-on-one.
- 2 - Upped communication on social media. Posting services online on Sunday and following (not live stream).
- 3 - Social Media posts, Live service streams, Website content.
- 4 - YouTube - Pre-recorded service & now live streaming (good engagement initially, now dwindling to almost no engagement) Facebook & Instagram - encouragement and attempts to spark conversations (mostly failed, very low engagement).
- 5 - Zoom, Website, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook.
- 6 - All services, trainings, encounter weekends, training schools.
- 7 - Sunday meeting, Bible studies, Prayer group, communication with the congregation through website and emails.
- 8 - We were forced to step back from preaching and teaching from the pulpit so we increased our online videos on YouTube and bitchute. We released articles on our website. We used Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. We also spoke at a online camp summer 2020
- 9 - FB Live for Sunday services at first, then switched to YouTube Live. Also Zoom, Google Meet, and WhatsApp for other meetings.
- 10 - YouTube for services and devotionals, Zoom for Bible studies
- 11 - We chatted with people and posted sermon scripts on Facebook.

12 - We didn't have much of an online presence before, but we see the importance of creating video content for our members and how we have reached others beyond our borders.

13 - Online Church and YouTube for posting pre-recorded services (recently moved to streaming using same platforms & increased use of social media. Zoom for online meetings / Life Groups.

14 - Live Streaming through Facebook. Facebook page for communication. Church website for communication. Group emails for longer congregational letters, Group texting & WhatsApp. Zoom meetings, Zoom Bible Study / Small Group interactions.

15 - Meetings. No 'ministry' really.

16 - Sunday Worship (including communion), Leadership Meetings, Prayer, Workshops, Small Groups.

17 - Zoom meetings; YouTube services; Facebook and Instagram messaging; Streamed services; Premiered services.

18 - One-on-one mentoring. Uploading messages to the internet. Sharing resources with others. Communicating hope & encouragement through social media.

Question 13

Have you adapted the content of teaching and preaching to the pandemic and its restrictions?

	%	N	No. of comments 18	% On all participants 13.7%
A great deal	32.0%	16		
A lot	10.0%	5		
A moderate amount	32.0%	16		
A little	14.0%	7		
None at all	12.0%	6		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Thirteen - Comments Received

1 - Added even more discussion.

2 - Other than my usual integrating the context of our space and time into my teaching, not change in practice, just content. This is usual.

3 - Mostly the length.

4 - Shifted formats to shorter sermons, preached more topically on a Christian and scripture-centred response to societal issues, preached series on discerning truth from fiction, etc.

5 - It does serve as a great illustration to show grace to people with different views within the church, and where fear and faith are once again opposite.

6 – Yes, as the Holy Spirit directed. The governments overreach and human rights violations could not be left. Our country is hurting. What has gone on the last 18 months have left many victims. It is Christ's heart for His Church to rise up and speak healing, righteousness, truth and peace. It goes beyond mere politics and so these things were preached about and we did a great deal of praying. We preached about the end times, we taught and preached about the biblical response as a Christian to what is going on with the governments illegal activities and how to respond with the love of Christ.

7 - At times I addressed our overall frustrations as a congregation and our diversity in how we processed the restrictions.

8 - I included a few more references to Covid-19 and also dealing with fear.

9 - The Gospel is not meant to be restricted, especially by pastors & believers.

10 - The gospel hasn't changed...application to current challenges may have brought life to the reality of our need for the saviour and the call to take up our cross.

11 - We have made it a point to continue preaching the truth of Scripture, to go through different Books of the Bible.

12 - We connected to teaching resources from within our fellowship to pass along to our members.

13 - We changed length of preaching times to be a bit shorter and keep our services to an hour. We didn't particularly shape topics around the pandemic, but the texts we had previously settled on were used by the Lord to speak into what was happening during pandemic.

14 - There was a greater awareness of a "camara" and the more public reach of content, but for the most part we tried to keep our services as consistent as prior to the pandemic.

15 - Our programs require person to person involvement, and the pandemic didn't allow that. We moved to online.

16 - The team of us who preach (I'm an elder in my local church) learned how to preach to a camera and to a mixed audience (in-person and on-line).

17 - Messages have become more condensed and concise; more topical and less exegetical.

18 - More encouragement and hope... plus practical prayer exercises to address fear & worry. Training folks to hear God's voice.

Question 14

Have you continued to strengthen and/or multiply disciples over the past fifteen months?

	%	N	No. of comments 16	% On all participants 12.2%
A great deal	6.0%	3		
A lot	16.0%	8		
A moderate amount	24.0%	12		
A little	18.0%	9		
None at all	4.0%	2		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Fourteen - Comments Received

- 1 - Revisioned how we do ministry but didn't not shut ministries down.
- 2 - Mostly newcomers naturally arriving at our church from other contexts.
- 3 - lots of phone calls, visits outside distanced.
- 4 - We doubled down on our discipleship groups, 3-5 men or 3-5 women who meet together and communicate with one another weekly for prayer, study and discussion.
- 5 - Online
- 6 - Online Bible studies, prayer group, but only with those people who chose to attend.
- 7 - I wish we could do a lot more. But people were fearful and were in survivor mode. We encouraged and strengthened members of our family and encouraged them to stay strong in Christ. We used phone and messenger and in person. We also encouraged those in our community. Our neighbour's we shared our joy and freedom we have through Christ and showed them that we are not fearful.
- 8 - I started a mentoring program with young men in our church.
- 9 - I reached out through Facebook messaging, drive-by gift encouragement, and speaking on the phone.
- 10 - I have in my ministry, but our church has not done well at this as a whole.
- 11 - Online, phone calls, texts, walks.

12 - I think we've done a reasonable job of this for those who were willing to connect. We've done online discipleship pieces and also some discipleship through very small groups or one-on-one.

13 - A moderate amount. Small Group ministries / relationships were strengthened. Greatest discipleship impact took place among the youth. Where typical games and activities were not available, our youth met weekly for a time of Bible Study and prayer and saw a growth in their relational and spiritual depth.

14 - We had young people live and work at camp as part of our community. Daily devotions, weekly bible Study, relationships. It was awesome!

15 - Personally, through phone calls and Zoom meetings.

16 - We disciplined people by engaging them in the work of the church. Multiple teams worked on healing ministries; visioning; blessing the community; prayer; tech teams; task teams; children's ministry teams; youth teams.

Question 15

Once the social and travel restrictions of COVID-19 are lifted, will you do things differently in your life and ministry?

	%	N	No. of comments 22	% On all participants 16.8%
A great deal	12.0%	6		
A lot	30.0%	15		
A moderate amount	40.0%	20		
A little	12.0%	6		
None at all	6.0%	3		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Fifteen - Comments Received

1 - More in person meetings.

2 - The transition to a new church calls for change in work and life habits, it is very much informed by the lessons of the pandemic and a new/fresh sense of priority in church life.

3 - I will create a rule of life that help me be more intentional about keeping the healthy rhythms that I have established during the pandemic.

4 - I will actually have in-person programs to run in addition to my digital content. I will be able to get away to visit friends when I need a break.

5 - Getting back to a balanced personal and spiritual health is a priority. I feel like I am in a deep burnout 'hole' and will need a significant amount of time to climb out of it, but I fear the pressures of re-launching and dealing the pain and isolation from congregation members that has been built up over the past year and a half will be overwhelming as people return.

6 - Potlucks! More eating together and gathering in homes.

7 - Prioritizing time with Jesus and ministry flowing out of that. Being more of a Mary, than a Martha. Much more effective ;) Listening to Jesus and putting my ultimate trust as my ultimate leader, rather than human authority.

8 - A more discipleship and small group focus rather than a "Sunday show."

9 - I think I will work from home/office in a hybrid way, and I think my focus is shifting towards having a much more structured work week, where certain tasks only happen during specific workdays.

10 - Keep a lot of things online, try not to get drawn in to too many activities that crowd out personal time with God and time to relate to others outside of events/activities.

11 - We must change and adapt. I know I must be bold for the truth of Christ and go forward regardless of what society or man says. It's not easy but Jesus must be in present in every section of life. We cannot afford to compartmentalize our Christianity. I feel the structure of Church cannot afford to stay the same. We need more activation and less pew sitting. How that looks must be formed by the Holy Spirit. We cannot afford not to be active in our faith. We cannot afford to sit passive.

12 - We will continue holding meetings online where it works better. I will (hopefully) begin meeting people for discipleship again.

13 - If we are not under a lock-down again, it would be good to visit people more and walk to the store every few days instead of driving once a week. Then I can talk to people as I walk where I'm going.

14 - I will make plans with the possibility of changes.

15 - More trips with our people, and more events. Particularly with youth.

16 - I'd like to spend more time on creating teaching content to put online and spend less time on para-church ministry.

17 - I'm looking forward to some travel in terms of retreats / leadership training that I help with. We are looking forward to reshaping ministry to engage people more in a decentralized, smaller group structure

18 - Most of the same ministries will take place but without the social distancing and masks. There will be a greater sensitivity to those who may be more anxious with re-emerging, but most will carry on. The greatest impact will be on retooling our volunteer base and prioritizing certain ministries given the loss of people that may not be returning.

19 - More face-to-face time with people.

20 - More mix of in-person and on-line meetings. Greater engagement with diaspora leaders globally through connections with diaspora leaders in Canada.

21 - We all learned to work much more from home and office without face-to-face contact. Much of this will continue. Our teams have a greater desire to serve the community. We need to leverage desire and turn this into action.

22 - More travel and in person training through seminars, etc.

Question 16

From now on, will you do things differently as you follow Jesus on mission?

	%	N	No. of comments 24	% On all participants 18.3%
A great deal	10.2%	5		
A lot	18.4%	9		
A moderate amount	42.9%	21		
A little	26.5%	13		
None at all	2.0%	1		
	Answered	49		
	Skipped	82		

Question Sixteen - Comments Received

- 1 - Continue to focus on building deeper relationships both personally and as a community.
- 2 - The opportunity to gather in person will be a welcome addition to the online work.
- 3 - More time reflecting and listening (that is the plan); Intentional use of a discipleship pathway; let my schedule become More organic.
- 4 - I will take more time to listen to people, listen to their story.
- 5 - My ministry structure will not go back to what it was before covid.
- 6 - Changed perspective on faith and God's love, changed perspective on how I read, interpret, and preach scripture. Deeper focus on justice as a significant part of partnering with God to create his kingdom of heaven on earth.
- 7 - Not a whole lot, because throughout the time we kept doing the same thing: Preach the Gospel in word and in deed.
- 8 - I'm going to be resigning from my ministry role and starting something new that God has put on my heart and been birthing in me, in this season.
- 9 - Less programmed, more engaged in ministry to the poor and seeing how to share the gospel and make disciples with those who are coming to us for support.
- 10 - Re-invest in neighbourhood ministry/mission and encourage our people to do the same. Trying to get the focus off the Sunday gathering as much as possible in the way we teach/talk/lead.
- 11 - Do the things I believe I am called to do instead of the things that someone has to do so I step in.

12 - Be bold and stay focused on his mandate for my ministry. Not make excuses to not move forward with what He has called me to. Aggressively seek His kingdom call. I will not say no to anything He asks me to do.

13 - I mean, isn't that what I'm trying to do regardless?

14 - It would be good to get out and visit people more.

15 - I will try to be more aware and prepared for coming persecution.

16 - I adapt on the fly regularly, so I don't know that this is only to do with the pandemic, as much as it is how I assess each new year.

17 - I'd like too to do more ministry that is creative and teaching. I'm more open to doing it someplace else than I currently am.

18 - Focus on decentralizing discipleship, decentralized pastoral care, greater emphasis on need for personal encounter with Jesus and being led by him

19 - Probably will be more bluntness in addressing those who are caught up in consumer Christianity.

20 - Time with people.

21 - More creativity in how we share Christ.

22 - I think it's both more focused locally on a small physical environment in my neighbourhood and, simultaneously, more connections trans-locally in Canada & beyond supported in large part by online tech.

23 - We will work on developing teams that serve in a variety of capacities. Many of the teams will continue the work that was envisioned during our pandemic reboot.

24 - Jesus could do nothing on His own. He only did what He saw the Father do and Hear the Father say...can I expect to do anything different?

Question 17

Have you started new churches during COVID-19?

	%	N	No. of comments 7	% On all participants 5.3%
Yes	16.0%	8		
No	62.0%	31		
N/A	22.0%	11		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Seventeen - Comments Received

- 1 - New ministry opportunities, universities, camps.
- 2 - In the process of relaunching a new one.
- 3 - thru our local community, training, supporting, and launching home groups into churches.
- 4 - As a church body and personally, we gave to the district fund to start new churches.
- 5 - Have I? Not exactly. But I lead a group in Ontario called "Planting in the Pandemic". I'm connecting there with 5 planters who are in the very fragile stages of planting. I also have a group for those "Considering Planting" with 3 members. This week, I think I found a new member for that group.
- 6 - Indirectly by coaching leaders and church planters.
- 7 - I have supported/mentored leaders starting new churches during the pandemic.

Question 18

On a scale of 0 (not enthusiastic) to 10 (highly enthusiastic), how would you describe your own level of enthusiasm for deepening a greater intimacy with Jesus since the pandemic began in March 2020?

	Less important (from 0 to 4)		Important (from 5 and 7)	Highly important (from 8 to 10)		All respondents		
	%	N	%	N	%	N	Answered	Skipped
Based only on those who answered this question (49)	6.1%	3	30.6%	15	63.3%	31	49	82
Based on all survey respondents (131)	2.3%	3	11.5%	15	23.7%	31	37.4%	62.6%

Question 19

On a scale of 0 (not enthusiastic) to 10 (highly enthusiastic), how would you describe your church's, or faith community's, level of enthusiasm for deepening a greater intimacy with Jesus since the pandemic began in March 2020?

	Less important (from 0 to 4)		Important (from 5 and 7)	Highly important (from 8 to 10)		All respondents		
	%	N	%	N	%	N	Answered	Skipped
Based only on those who answered this question (49)	20.4%	10	59.2%	29	20.4%	10	49	82
Based on all survey respondents (131)	7.6%	10	22.1%	29	7.6%	10	37.4%	62.6%

Question 20

Regarding the two questions above, is there a difference between your level of enthusiasm and that of your church?

	%	N	No. of comments 16	% On all participants 12.2%
A great deal	10.0%	5		
A lot	14.0%	7		
A moderate amount	32.0%	16		
A little	30.0%	15		
None at all	14.0%	7		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Twenty - Comments Received

1 - I look at others and see their intentions as well as their external experience. I judge myself based on only the outcome.

2 - The church as a whole, averages out I think. Some have quite embraced a deeper level of faith journey. Some have been distracted by the cares and problems of the world and have drifted. The parable of the sower/soils both comforts and haunts me. How can people walk away from faith engagement?

3 - I feel like most of my church has become significantly disengaged from their faith over the pandemic and if they have enthusiasm, it is only among a few to join together for in-person services, and not enthusiasm for a renewed and deepened faith.

4 - There are in the church "causal church goers" who do not display a deep faith.

5 - My church loves Jesus and is very focused on relationship with him. They are just still reeling from all the adjustments and changes, and might be too focused on that at times, rather than on deepening relationship with Jesus. Pre-occupied with trying to stay "afloat".

6 - My walk and dependence seem to be much more important to the congregation who seem to be comfortable with Jesus at the periphery of their lives.

7 - I actually don't know. it feels like the staff is going for it but the congregation has not met together for so long we are unsure... though attendance at encounter weekends etc. has been good but we think a lot are not from our church; every week we are starting to see new families at church (we have been somewhat open for 2 weeks) and it is really the young adults and young families we are not sure about their return to church ... and of course this can be different from their relationship with the lord.

8 - I don't know for sure. Those of us who engaged in online church activities are desiring greater intimacy with Jesus. Those who didn't may not. We won't know until they come back if they do. Some people new to the church did attend online, and they seem to have increased in desire to know more about God.

9 - The gap is that of fear. My wife and I took on the challenge of the Holy Spirit from the get-go. We presented the message of hope and truth to the congregation. At first there was enthusiasm however when they realized that the Call of the Holy Spirit would cost them something in their own personal lives they backed down and made excuses not to follow. They grew uncomfortable with our obedience to Christ, and they fell back out of fear and went into survival mode refusing to be challenged in their faith. They grew complacent and stagnant.

10 - My congregation is primarily made up of people who grew up in the same church, and therefore do not know anything different. I have discovered that there was very little modelling of Christian faith in their homes growing up, and so most of them have a very shallow relationship with Jesus (even the ones the community considers mature).

11 - There is a huge gap... I feel as though our church lost its mission or forgot it under the pressure of the pandemic.

12 - Some chose to hibernate at home, watch the news & live in fear.

13 - It really depends on what segment of the church you are referring to. Being we have been a divided congregation that is yet to see what our re-emergence will look like, all would likely say this is high for them on a personal level, but many simply left with anger over the church following health restrictions. Other parts of the church that have continued to shoulder the burden of this season would likely rate this level much higher as they were functioning more out of a desire to serve within the current context regardless of personal preferences.

14 - Stage of life is probably a factor. I'm not a young parent or an overworked young professional. I think those groups have struggled more with overload that makes intimacy in any relationship (including with Jesus) very challenging.

15 - The complications of life have resulted in many distractions. There is desire to grow in Christ, but the weeds of life encroach.

16 - I am in a very different place spiritually than the Church I attend. After pastoring the Church that brokered the largest revival in Church History and travelling globally, it's hard to find a local church with similar values/DNA. However, the Lord always calls me to love, serve and encourage.

Question 21

Did you and your congregation shared the hope of the gospel and message of grace during this time with those who do not yet follow Jesus?

	%	N	No. of comments 24	% On all participants 18.3%
Yes	84.0%	42		
No	6.0%	3		
N/A	10.0%	5		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Twenty-One - Comments Received

- 1 - Online meetings.
- 2 - Instagram, Facebook, hospital visits, interaction with online community events.
- 3 - Personal contact by phone and video. Intentionally upped our online presence and engagement.
- 4 - Online, food distribution.
- 5 - Through personal relationships and through the online sermons.
- 6 - Online services.
- 7 - Conversations with friends, co-workers, neighbours.
- 8 - Easter baskets for families in the neighbourhood, blog posts.
- 9 - Handouts, deliveries. Special events for easter, Mother's Day, a day camp for parent's needing childcare. All sharing and giving invitation to respond to the gospel.
- 10 - We ran an online alpha, and through our ministry to the neighbourhood throughout covid.
- 11 - In every meeting we had online, and we had online prayer rooms where if you accepted the invitation to follow Jesus you could join a prayer room to meet with someone.
- 12 - Personal contacts, mostly in our Mandarin immigrant community.
- 13 - My wife and I have the church refused to go out. I have went out to streets and talked to people about Jesus. We spoke at the online Bible camp. Met with family. Encouraged those who were in fear in our neighbourhood and at the local stores.

14 - Sort of. We participated in the Angel Christmas Tree program through Prison Fellowship Canada. I don't recall anything else.

15 - We shared the good news about Jesus over the local radio twice a week since Covid started and continue to do so.

16 - One on one conversations.

17 - Talking to people via phone, text or other online messenger services. Also, through our services and messages online each week.

18 - Mostly personal connections with people. We tried online Alpha, but it didn't get much traction in our community.

19 - We do what we always do.

20 - Personal interactions. Ministry at the local Detox Centre. Personal involvement of congregation with others in need. Within preaching with a wider on-line viewership.

21 - Personal testimony.

22 - Phone calls; Zoom calls; Sermons; Children's ministry; Youth ministry; Virtual youth Hip-Hop event.

23 - Personal testimony, social media, conversations with neighbors.

24 - Online messages - meditations, video teachings (on YouTube Channel), etc.

Question 22

What kind of results from your evangelism have you had?

	%	N	No. of comments 13	% On all participants 9.9%
Far above average	0.0%	0		
Above average	16.0%	8		
Average	36.0%	18		
Below average	12.0%	6		
Far below average	10.0%	5		
N/A	0.26	13		
	Skipped	50		
	Answered	81		

Question Twenty-Two - Comments Received

1 - No tracked results or self-identification of conversion growth has happened during the pandemic.

2 - Don't know yet. One family came to the easter service. Lots of ongoing conversations.

3 - I've been in a sabbath rest time and a time of retreat for most of the pandemic. Also working on my Masters. There have been sometimes where sharing more naturally about Jesus with family, friends, neighbours, on social media and classmates have happened. I'm also in a process of redefining what I view as evangelism, my view was a bit narrow before and legalistic. I've more been pouring that energy into creative projects sharing about him, that will be shared more widely later.

4 - Mostly in the context of friendships, we've seen a handful of people come to Christ in the last year and a half, praise Jesus!

5 - We don't do nearly enough evangelism... and during covid (we did do a few awesome outreaches) but I don't think we saw (yet) a big result and then church of course has been closed to meet together.

6 - Our neighbours were in such fear. Our peace and freedom in Christ moved them to step out of the overwhelming fear they have lived in. We trust this will lead them to the true Hope, Jesus Christ. I was able to encourage those smothered by masks in the shops. That they can breath fresh air and that we can live free and healthy because we are made by God and He loves us.

7 - It's hard to tell from the radio booth who is accepting the call to follow Jesus, but we have heard some good feedback from the community.

8 - It was hard to tell since a lot of my time is taken by para-church ministry and trying to lead a church and not having enough time to do either or both with in-depth personal contact with others.

9 - What on earth is 'average results of evangelism'?

10 - Uncertain as a comparison.

11 - Seeds have been planted on good soil, rocky soil, and soil that is filled with weeds and the cares of the world. We await the harvest.

12 - Seeing good results in social media!

13 - We just "put the message out there" - not sure of results!

Question 23

Are you helping people make next steps in following Jesus?

	%	N	No. of comments 11	% On all participants 8.4%
A great deal	10.0%	5		
A lot	28.0%	14		
A moderate amount	42.0%	21		
A little	14.0%	7		
None at all	6.0%	3		
	Answered	50		
	Skipped	81		

Question Twenty-Three - Comments Received

1 - Instagram and Facebook.

2 - With my move after 22 years discussing the sense of 'call' and presence of Jesus in my life in vital way. Regarding discussing the restrictions and reality of the pandemic a focus on the God who is with us.

3 - Encouraged people to reach out through email, phone, or digital connect card. Very little success at creating conversations this way.

4 - Working on creative projects that will hopefully be a part of initiating those conversation, so yes but not as much in a "direct" way.

5 - Yes, to helping people to take next steps in following Jesus. We have a set out discipleship plan that includes joining a small group, participating in encounter weekends and leadership training weekends etc. If your question is how do we 'make a convert'/initiate new conversations with Jesus.... that's a different question. we are all trained to do that as part of our lifestyle of living as a Christian. So, for example, at a restaurant, asking the server if they have pain or getting a word of knowledge for them and then praying for them, inviting them to church or into my small group etc.

6 - Those who joined our online groups have been encouraged.

7 - We have hope and freedom. This is attractive to those beaten down by the government restrictions. It easy for people to see those in Christ walking free. We have been able to get a real foothold for the gospel in our neighbourhood and build relationships which will lead to salvations.

8 - Yes - but with fewer people! Covid really limited our interactions with people.

9 - We have set up a number of teams to ask questions about the things to which God is calling us. We have listened and discussed and planned.

10 - Discovery Bible studies.

11 - Jesus understanding of discipleship was not post-conversion. He saw discipleship from no knowledge or awareness of God through conversion to Christ and then continuing to be a mature follower. I am called to point everyone to Jesus and engage at their point of connection. However, I'm generally dealing with believers.

Question 24

Have you provided pastoral care and practical support to the people in your faith community?

	%	N	No. of comments 13	% On all participants 9.9%
A great deal	36.7%	18		
A lot	30.6%	15		
A moderate amount	20.4%	10		
A little	8.2%	4		
None at all	4.1%	2		
	Answered	49		
	Skipped	82		

Question Twenty-Four - Comments Received

1 - Lots of hurting people in the midst of hard things. Support by phone, text, email, and web meeting. In specific situations I was able to visit in person using personal protective equipment.

2 - Very little pastoral care has happened over the length of the pandemic other than with a family who lost a loved one (not a covid death, but covid complicated the situation and the funeral immensely).

3 - Mental health struggles; Physical health; Discouragement; Theological deconstruction.

4 - Pastoral care and looking after practical needs is done mostly thru our small groups which is wonderful! this made it much easier to continue pastoral care within the covid restrictions. when we realized covid was going to be more than a couple of weeks we set up a call centre where we called for weeks everyone in our congregation to check in on them and see how we could help. we did quite a lot of practical helps during that time... such a food purchasing and delivery. resource hep. transport help.

5 - Poor and blind people helped with practical needs (shopping, driving places, learning to drive, moving, going for walks with lonely people), practical and spiritual help for people who were grieving or who were ill or had close people who were ill. This was hard because a lot of people were reluctant to be in contact with others so not everyone would help.

6 - Cycling through the church directory praying for each member of the congregation and inviting them to pray with me if they had time, or at least letting them know I was praying. Lots of Zoom meetings.

7 - Due to our isolation, the support we offer is largely through communication (phone, online, etc.) and prayer.

8 - One on one visitation, a listening ear to frustrations, trying to encourage unity and fellowship.

9 - Listening to people through their struggles in dealing with the pandemic.

10 - Much personal interaction, phone calls, in person visits to retain a sense of connection to the faith community. A few funerals, counselling ministry. Much logistical work to help the church be creative in its ability to reach out to others despite the health restrictions it chose to minister within.

11 - More than usual.

12 - Pastoral care for hurting marriages; isolated seniors; grief; crises of faith; crises of church involvement. Most was done through phone or Zoom; some through socially distanced meetings.

13 - Grief, loss of life, jobs, etc. has required more time spent praying with and encouraging people. Students who are struggling with hope and broken education tracks have required a lot of encouragement.

Question 25

Have you provided pastoral care and practical support to the people in your faith community?

	%	N	No. of comments 6	% On all participants 4.6%
A great deal	20.8%	10		
A lot	4.2%	2		
A moderate amount	25.0%	12		
A little	31.3%	15		
None at all	18.8%	9		
	Answered	48		
	Skipped	83		

Question Twenty-Five - Comments Received

1 - We had the opportunity to serve at the vaccination clinics in our local community. it was amazing as we got more and more opportunity. the biggest impact we felt was to the volunteers at the clinics as we saw them repeatedly day after day.... we brought water, coffee, and lunches to them. a fantastic opportunity. out of that, the leader of our church was invited to make a formal recommendation to the Ontario Gov/Heath about what the re-opening of churches should look like!

2 - I have engaged by our church has refused to out of fear.

3 - We opened up our building to be used by various community groups that lost their usual spaces during pandemic shutdowns. This gave us an opportunity to connect with those in the community and show our willingness to partner in goals we have in common.

4 - We have done a lot of zoom meetings, and people in the community have joined us. We have not done anything in person.

5 - We have taken this time to make explicit some of our collaborations with para-church and secular community service organizations.

6 - Bringing food to others, etc.

General Comments

If you have ideas and comments, we will read all the surveys in detail. Or, if you would like to send us a longer text, a picture or an audio recording that describes the ideas and feelings you have had over the past 15 months, you can also paste the web link into the following text box. In the event that the material you send us is selected for inclusion in the final report, we will contact you beforehand to ensure your consent.

	%	N	No. of comments 7	% On all participants 5.3%
I want to describe my own experience more fully.	13.6%	6		
I do not wish to describe my experience any further.	86.4%	38		
	Answered	44		
	Skipped	87		

General Comments Received

1 - Question 12 in this survey does not make sense in its context. "Others" is not part of the previous question.

2 - God has used this season of Covid to bless our camp. People gave generously and much was accomplished. I am very encouraged!

3 - I would only say the most difficult thing in this time was working with the differing views of people in the church, particular the group who believed we should not be following government regulations. Though these people were only about 15% of our congregation, they made their voice heard. Now it is a matter of trying to reconcile these people and others they "stepped on" during this time. Our congregation is tense right now and needs to work through reconciliation of some kind.

4 - It's been hard. I have a lot of cynicism towards the usual church leadership (TM) talk re: 'innovation', 'opportunity', etc... I also really doubt that digital innovations have provided as much benefit as some have thought. They've been necessary. But the secular world (NYT, The Atlantic, The CBC...) has been littered with accounts of how unsatisfying, soul-sucking, and disappointing digital alternatives have been. Nothing can replace embodied presence and community. Ironically, the secular world has been more adept at realizing this than the evangelical one. But we're always trailing behind the culture, sadly. We ought to have been the first to say you can't do life online. Communion over the internet!?!?!? ghastly!

Normal, average, run-of-the-mill pastors in small or remote places just need to get through this. We'll all lick our wounds, wipe our tears, count our dwindled flocks and trust Christ to lead us through what's next.

5 - I believe the Western Church has been dominated by programs and Church Growth principles that see "success" as big churches with many people, lots of money and property. The pandemic has undermined the institutional elements of the Church. So, leaders are either seeking to prop up these components getting busier OR have begun to centre-in with the Lord to discern where He is working and partner with Him. The Church (especially mainline traditions) has been dying for decades. This is an opportunity to re-engage the Lord. Upwards of 40% of active church members (tithers & volunteers) are not planning to return after the pandemic. We can learn a lot from the 2/3's world church. I have been engaged in a paradigm shift which I call Presence-Centered or (Holy) Spirit-Dependent. See: <https://johnandhollyroddam.ca/Presence-Centered/>.

6 - I think in many ways COVID has given us opportunities and at the same time exposed our weaknesses. My main concern out of this time is that if people never knew why they were coming to Sunday gatherings in the first place (i.e. they did it out of tradition or duty or??), I believe we will lose them in this season. I think young adults are particularly at risk as are young families... imagine not having to wrestle your 2+ kids out the door every Sunday (this could be very appealing??). I at the same time believe we have an opportunity to reach so many people.... people in person who have been so isolated and are craving community and connection and something more to life!! I also believe there is a huge opportunity online to build online church that reaches people who would never walk into a church building, something that has high connection, high safety and meets a hunger that is out there. I am currently in the process of joining with others on my team to make a proposal of what this could look like... exciting and I am praying for God ideas for this possibly. If it's God, it will be fantastic! if not God, not so much. Thanks for all this hard work for this survey and for reading ALL the responses.... I know it is a huge amount of work. God bless!

7 - There has been a great deal of isolation during the past 15 months. Though we have went to Christ and His Holy Spirit has spoken very loudly in this time we have lost a great deal of friends and family's support as they have seen fit to go along with the evil actions of the government. We feel most of the church in Canada has ignored the plight of its people. They have ignored the medical experiments illegally being procured and inflicting our citizens. They have ignored the plight of the hurting and beaten down by the restrictions that the government has illegally subjected upon the country. The churches failure to speak up and stand up for our citizens have put us in a place of complacency and culpability. The place of trust the church has held in society has been broken. I fear their will be long term consequences for our inaction and for the many leaders who have went along with the injustices of our governments. My wife and I have not come against anyone personally but have spoken up for those hurting and as a result we have been rejected by friends, family members and fellow Christian leaders. It's been a lonely time and we hope and have pray the Holy Spirit will bring others around us who wish to minister to those who are being hurt and abused. Please read this early article we wrote regarding the Covid-19 problem- <https://dead2myself.com/2020/12/26/the-church-and-the-covid-19-problem/>