

Rebuilding Your Community After Covid: Responding Proactively to Challenges and Opportunities

Just as the Covid virus attacks and weakens physical bodies, it also can attack and weaken spiritual bodies such as churches and Christian organizations. How do you understand the nature of this impact and respond proactively to bring renewed strength and health to your ministry? What do leaders need to focus on after over two years of pandemic strain, and how can you see and capture the unique opportunities of this time? This seminar will draw on both Scripture and contemporary research to help you rebuild your community after (or during) Covid.

Dave Patty has been involved in training youth leaders and leading national and international youth movements in Europe for over 30 years. He serves as the president of Josiah Venture. He is also a founding member of Global Youth Initiative, which mobilizes and equips youth ministry trainers in over 60 countries of the world. Dave is an ordained pastor with a BA in theology and a MA in education. He has also done graduate work in leadership development at Harvard University. For the past 27 years he has lived in the Czech Republic, and he spent the 10 years before that in Germany. Dave is married to Connie and has three grown children, Tyler, Caleb, and Claire.

A. What challenges can you expect in your community after covid?

1. **Weaknesses** are amplified

2. Leaders become **lightning rods** for general frustration

3. Distance takes the **oil out of community**

4. **Energy levels** are depleted

5. **What worked before** doesn't work the same any more

B. How can you capture the kingdom-building opportunity hidden in each of these challenges?

Romans 8:28

Matt 14:44

John 18:36

1. **Weaknesses**– when weaknesses are highlighted they can be healed and made strong

Heb 12:7-13

2. **Lightning rods** – increased heat and pressure can purify and refine you as a leader

2 Cor 12:9-10

3. **Oil gone from community** – as you increase the vitamins of love, relationships and grace your community can become a magnet of God’s resources for dry and hurting people.

I Peter 4:7-13

4. **Energy levels are depleted** - when standard energy sources are depleted, there is finally motivation to find alternative sources of energy.

Isaiah 40:30-31

5. **What worked before** – change can take you back to the basics and out of maintenance mode into courageous action.

Acts 8:4-8

Acts 16:6-10

Phil 1:12-14

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us triumphantly as captives in Christ and through us speeds everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.” 2 Cor 2:14 (BSB)