

Article Review

ARTICLE REVIEW

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Article Review

Iman Jaya Zandroto began by disclosing the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. He states, "The COVID-19 Pandemic caused major changes in all areas of life, including the life of the church. It has caused the church to live in a new normal by challenging the church's ability and perspective on how to carry out its mission", Zandroto. He explores the mission of the church in the new normal. In this new normal, "there are different areas of life that must be addressed, such as providing health protocols, spirituality, the use of technology, considerations for the church's attitude and actions of the issues that are part of the new normal ." Zandroto.

The Pandemic has caused so many changes in the human family. We have seen and continue to see "racism and racial inequality in all levels of existence, from government, organizations, and large companies. In person, education instruction was non-existent but was reduced to the provision of zoom, live streaming and other available technology with employees working from home." Zandroto. The students, young children, and even adults suffer from mental issues and an inability to focus because of what they have seen and the tragic situation they were forced to navigate. Mental health is on the rise. The Pandemic has been a crisis for everyone. However, the poor were affected the most.

The church services have been tremendously affected by closures, sermon delivery, Holy Communion, and other activities that were all online. The church has been challenged regarding worship and the insurmountable loss of its members. The "transition has brought together more people to attend worship and opened up the opportunities for cross-denominational worship," Zandroto. We are experiencing a new way of life today, just as the Israelites did in the Exodus and the Babylonian exile, as cited by Zandroto. "The church in the new normal doing missions must consider four context in which it is responsible to fulfill its mission. The church must adhere to health protocols. The first requirement is that the church hold worship from home." Zandroto. Secondly, the church should use technology. Third is healthy spirituality. Christians may possibly treat worship as just a mere formality by being in front of a television or computer and, fourth, relevant attitude and actions.

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Hastings, *Engaging in God's mission in the age of Digital Marketing*, discusses how "this invisible virus was taking a huge toll on this nation and worldwide. He said, "it felt downright apocalyptic." He was describing or prophesying the complete destruction of the world. Resembling the end of the world, momentous or catastrophic. Hastings compared this virus to the deaths of Pearl Harbor and the 911 attacks with massive loss of life. In each attack, Hastings compared the attitudes of each sitting president at the time. In fact, the government succeeded in polarizing the country", Hastings, 2021. The Church: Our faith communities, Hastings says, "have been unable to resource communal rituals of lament, because we rightly eschewed public worship to protect the vulnerable. We were wrenched apart at the very places where the churches have bound together". Hastings, 2021. It is evident that U.S. churches are now engaging in the mission of God within a hotly contested public space which previously shared assumptions about truth crumbling and trust in institutions eroding", Hastings, 2021.

"The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused major changes in various areas of life, including the life of the church; it has brought about a new normal. Just As God continued to work through his people at the time of the Exodus and Babylonian exile, during the COVID-19 Pandemic may the church of Jesus Christ be faithful in carrying out God's mission as it involves the response to governmental health protocols, use of technology as a means of mission, maintaining healthy spirituality, and showing relevant attitudes and actions toward social issues, and for the poor." The implications are that mission is in crisis, and the church must find strategies to continue God's plan. I need to find a more comfortable place to do the will of God on this new world stage.

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Reference

The two articles selected for review are COVID-19 and the mission of the church: Some Notes on the New Normal, by Iman Jaya Zandroto, and Engaging in God's Mission in the Age of Digital Marketing, by Thomas John Hastings, IBMR Editor, Executive Director, OMSC at Princeton Theological Seminary.