

COVID-19 and the Mission of the Church: Some Notes on the New Normal

International Bulletin of
Mission Research
2021, Vol. 45(4) 346–354

© The Author(s) 2021

Article reuse guidelines:
sagepub.com/journals-permissions
DOI: 10.1177/23969393211034603
ibmr.sagepub.com



Iman Jaya Zandroto

Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has 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, challenging the church's ability and perspective on how to carry out its mission. This article explores the mission of the church in the new normal. It provides consideration of health protocols, the use of technology, spirituality, and the church's attitudes and actions toward the issues that are part of the new normal.

Keywords

pandemic, COVID-19, new normal, mission, church

The COVID-19 pandemic (aka the coronavirus pandemic) has caused major changes in human life worldwide. People now live and carry on their activities in what has been called a new normal.¹ Starting from the city of Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019, COVID-19 has spread worldwide. As of May 23, 2021, a total of 167,054,372 cases had been reported, with 3,468,818 deaths.² In developing countries, COVID-19 has led to an economic crisis for the poor.³ In developed countries, particularly Canada and the United States, COVID-19 has exposed racial inequality and racism.⁴ During the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have encouraged companies to allow their employees to work from home.⁵ Meanwhile, in the field of education, the United Nations reported in August 2020 that COVID-19 had affected 1.6 billion students in all continents, in more than 190 countries.⁶

Corresponding author:

Iman Jaya Zandroto, Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Email: zandroto.iman@yahoo.com