

I am grateful that so many of you responded to the questions I posed in last week's newsletter. My intent was to make sure that I am getting to the issues/questions that you have, so that this resource may be as effective as possible. In the weeks ahead, I will be addressing your responses. This week, I want to lift up one theme you raised, about "*where is the energy being directed in your church?*"

Inward Energy

During Covid, many churches keep asking the question, "When can we get back in our buildings?" Other church leaders are spending huge amounts of time and energy worrying about a few elderly members who can't or won't go online. There is a danger that if we spend most of our energy only focusing on current members that we will perpetuate continued decline. Watch how your time is spent. If our mission field is only those we had pre-Covid, we will miss a great opportunity to make a difference.



Outward Energy



Healthy churches, while they certainly have a congregational care system for current members, spend more time and energy looking at the 80-90% of people in the wider community who are far from the faith and church. Positive steps include:

- a) Determining the "next group" the church will reach;**
- b) working with groups in the community to address needs;**
- c) developing online strategies that connect to new people.**

**Which direction is the energy in your church going?
Will it be navel-gazing or mission-focused?**

Yours in Christ,
Paul

