

"Equipping the Coming Generation as Leaders"

Pastor Jed Johnston

Introduction

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The Concerning Trends

- As of March 2022, the percentage of pastors who have considered quitting full-time ministry within the past year sits at 42 percent. This is consistent with data from fall 2021 when Barna first reported on a sharp increase in pastoral burnout, and it confirms the growing number of pastors who are considering resignation—up 13 percentage points from 29 percent in January 2021. -*Barna “The State of Your Church”*
- "In recent years, more churches are closing than opening. Fewer than 50% of Americans claim to be church members... a Gallup poll that found, for the first time in the poll's 80-year history, church membership among American adults has fallen below 50%." - *The Denver Channel News Station*
- (The Hill) — Belief in God among U.S. adults has reached a new low, according to Gallup poll results released Friday. A large majority (81 percent) of Americans say they believe in God... that number has dipped 6 points from a consistent 87 percent from 2013 to 2017.
- ... traditional religious structures are declining faster, according to Gallup. Gallup has found that Americans are much less likely to attend church, become members of a church or rate themselves as confident in organized religion than to simply believe in God's existence. -Gallup Pole

Judges 2:8-10 (NASB95)

Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one hundred and ten. And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.

Mentoring Our Young

Disney Pixar Cars 3 Illustration

“Leaders aren’t born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work.” - Vince Lombardi

- Next generation development **is a critical predictor not only of church thriving but of church survival.** In spite of the "gray-ing" of church leadership, there seems to be an unsettling lack of opportunity for young people to grow in their leadership. Only one in five churched Millennials (21%) says they have access to leadership training for ministry through their church and two in five (42%) say they are given real chances to contribute in their church. But young churchgoers are hungry for opportunities to step up.
- **Many pastors have voiced difficulty finding men and women** who they feel are truly capable of handling leadership responsibilities. However, committing to leadership development is important to build thriving churches that will stand healthy and whole for generations to come.

- In Barna's Gen Z Vol. 2, for instance, we see that only one-third of churched 13- to-21-year-olds agrees strongly that they have learned what it feels like to be part of a team at church (35%) or that they are given real chances to contribute to their church (32%).⁴⁸ Numbers like these can help church leaders assess the potency of their vision as well as the presence of developmental gaps for future leaders.

Involve Them In Ministry...

Engage Them

Let them try, fail, and try again!!!

Questions & Discussion