



Special Ministry Pivot: New Year Pivots

Description: During this special, Rev. Dr. Nicole Martin, Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Pastor Matthew Watley, and Rev. Russell St. Bernard discussed how Churches and Leaders can pivot in the new year. The goal of this conversation was to answer questions, respond to research, and share thoughts for the next steps within ministry during this season. Special thank you to our partner Givelify. Listen to the conversation, download the resources, and discuss it with your team and staff.

Conversation Participant:

- Rev. Dr. Nicole Martin, VP of Church Engagement for American Bible Society and Grow Lead for Kingdom Fellowship AME Church AME.
- Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Senior Pastor of New Psalmist Baptist Church and Founder of Changes Can Happen.
- Pastor Matthew L. Watley, Senior Pastor of Kingdom Fellowship AME Church
- Rev. Russell St Bernard, Director of Ministry Operations at Kingdom Fellowship AME Church and Founder of Ministry Pivot.

Resources/Tools:

- Dr. Martin's Slide
 - [Church Attendance](#)
 - [Bible Engagement](#)
 - [Women and the Bible](#)
 - [Loneliness](#)
- Bishop Thomas' Slide
 - [Onboarding](#)
 - [Sample Org Chart](#)
- Givelify <https://www.givelify.com/>
- Bishop Thomas <https://www.changescanhappen.com/>
- Pastor Watley <https://www.matthewwatley.com/>
- Dr. Martin <https://www.sfministries.org/>

Takeaways:

- Since the beginning of Covid-19 church, attendance has decreased from some churches.
- People have become tired of screens and have lessened their involvement.
- Some data has shown that Bible engagement among “churched” Christians has fallen. People who usually engage with the Bible have slowed their Bible engagement during this season.
- Bishop Thomas encouraged Churches and Leaders to take a more in-depth look at how they onboard leaders and staff.
- Pastor Watley advises that we should be more focused on how we can prepare for what is ahead instead of predicting what is ahead.
- Bishop Thomas encourages Pastors and leaders to take the permission to quit for the day.
- You will never finish everything in one day; quit for the day to continue tomorrow.
- Dr. Martin explains that the scripture engagement for women has dropped as the role of wife and/or mother in the household has grown.

Final Takeaway:

- This season has been difficult, and while the way forward might look different, there is still a way forward if we plan and prepare.

Discussion Questions: (these questions should be answered with your team, if possible)

- What questions came up during this conversation that you and your staff should consider together?
- Has Covid-19 changed or made a shift to your Church’s vision?
- How can your Church better engage with the membership and the community during this season?

Podcast Resources

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