

# Growing by Leaps and Bounds in the Face of Challenges

Rev. Dr. John  
Obeng

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Introduction

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The New Life Story

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Brief Outlook of Some of our Challenges

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Our Call and Expectations

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Fulfilling Our Mission in the Face of Challenges

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Q&A



# Expectation

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# The First Flyer



NEW LIFE INTERNATIONAL  
CHURCH

A campus of Ghana Wesley



Host: Rev John Obeng  
703-309-1329

**Join Us!**  
Sundays 10:30am-12:30pm

Host Church: Fairfax United Methodist Church  
10300 Stratford Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22030

NewLifeInternationalUMC@Gmail.com

# Gathering July 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

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July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017



July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The second gathering



## Palm Sunday in Multipurpose Room



Launch: April 8<sup>th</sup>,  
2018

The official launch at Fairfax United  
Methodist Church





Meeting with  
Rev Jim  
Johnson at  
Olive Gardens

Maiden  
Gathering at  
Alexandria  
August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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# Joint Programs with St Andrews

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NEW LIFE INTERNATIONAL & ST. ANDREWS UMC  
PRESENTS

<b>IN PERSON PRAYER MEETING</b> September 2nd to 6th 6:30pm to 8pm 845 N. Howard St. Alexandria VA 22304	<b>BIBLE MUSEUM</b> September 7th 9am to 2 pm Meeting 9am @ 845 N. Howard St. Alexandria VA 22304
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**JOINT SERVICE** **SEPTEMBER 8, 2019**  
**10:30AM - 12:30PM**



**Rev. Jim Johnson** **Rev. John Obeng**

**New Life International @ St. Andrews**  
**845 N. HOWARD ST. | ALEXANDRIA | VA 22304**

# Merger in January 2020

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# Rev. Jim Johnson Retires and Continues as Project Manager

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# Where we are Now

New Church Complex with Growth potential

# Consecration Service- September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024





# Where we want to BE!

## Advantages of our new Building

- Worship spaces that can host a growing congregation
- A space to serve as a community center
- Reach diverse groups of people
- Continue partnerships with our partner churches

Maintain and Strengthen our Neighborhood networks as launchpads for future ministries



# Challenges

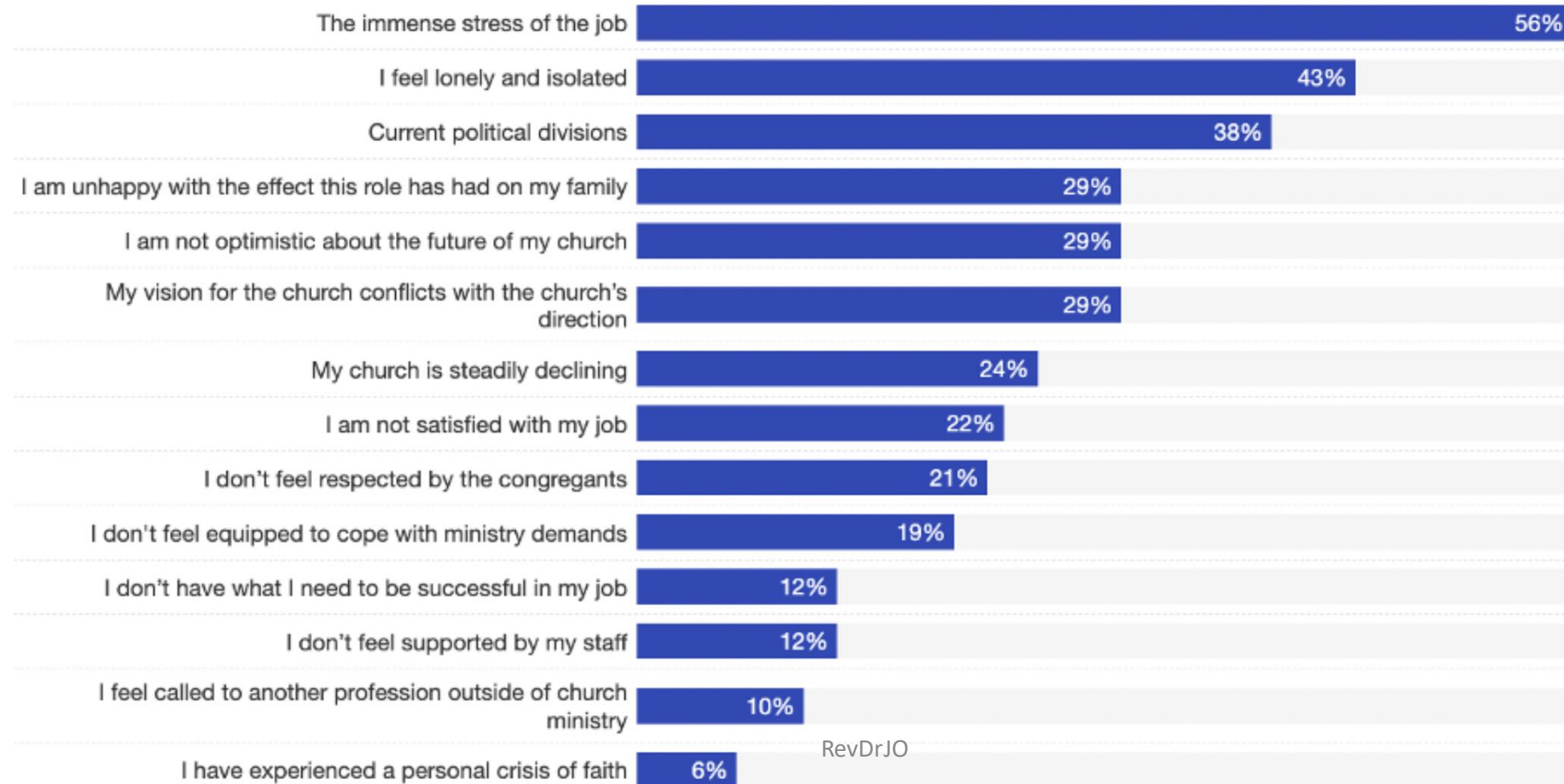
- Known Models of Evangelism have become ineffective
- Decline in Membership- 7.3M in 2014 to 6.2M in 2022
- Effects of the Pandemic
- Disaffiliation- around 7,900 churches or roughly 25%
- The stress of the expectations of fulfilling our call
  - Staffing Issues and additional responsibilities
  - Expectation of making disciples
  - Metrics used in measuring our work- ABC

# MINISTRY CHALLENGES, BY PASTORS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED QUITTING

Barna

Are any of the following reasons why you have considered quitting full-time ministry? Select all that apply.

Base: % among those who have considered quitting full-time ministry



RevDrJO



# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

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# Relate to Reproduce

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- Jesus Calls Disciples to Himself- Mark 3:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve<sup>[a]</sup> that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to drive out demons.(NIV)



# Relate to Reproduce

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Jesus- The Vine- John 15:4-5

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.





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## Relate to Reproduce

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### The Fellowship of the Believers

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

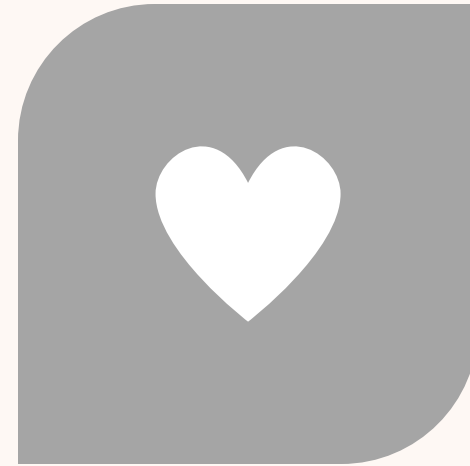
<sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

<sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. **And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

# Communion with God and Neighbor



EMBODY THE CROSS



LIVE OUT THE GREATEST  
COMMANDMENT

# Lifeway Research on Pastors Needs

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## Needs the largest percentage of pastors say they need to address

Among Protestant Pastors

77% Developing leaders & volunteers

76% Fostering connections with unchurched people

75% People's apathy or lack of commitment

★ 72% Consistency in personal prayer

69% Friendship and fellowship with others

★ 68% Consistency of Bible reading not related to sermon or teaching preparation

68% Training current leaders & volunteers

66% Trusting God

64% Relationships with other pastors

64% Consistency taking a Sabbath

Lifeway research



# Communion with God

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- Prayer & Fasting
  - A disciple's request on prayer- Luke 11:1 "Lord teach us to pray"
  - Jesus modeled prayer: all night, early morning
  - John Wesley's recommendation
  - Prayer at New Life; prayer team, Wed/Fri/Sat/Prayer Retreats



Communion  
with God

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Personal Bible Study- not  
for sermon preparation

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Fellowshipping

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Other Spiritual  
Disciplines



# Communion with Neighbor

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## Pain and Gain

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- \* Weddings with 6 session counseling

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- \* Baby naming

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- \* Celebration of Milestones; birthdays, opening businesses etc

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- \* Community celebrations

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- \* Funerals



Milestones

Images with community members celebrating milestones

# Strategy for Invitation

Invite! Invite! Invite

- 80% of visitors who stay are invited, picked up and brought to church

F- friends

R- relatives

A- Acquaintances

N- Neighbors

K- Kids



# MEMBERS EXPECTATIONS- THE S.E.W. CRITERION

- S- Stewardship- every member is expected to use their time, talent and treasure to support the church in some way
- E- Evangelism-every member is expected to invite at least one person to worship or any activity of the church at least once a quarter. I mostly encourage once a month invitation.
- W- Worship- members are expected to join any of our worship activities; Bible study, prayer meeting, Sunday Service at least once a week. Some members work on weekends, and they can choose to attend a weekday prayer meeting or Bible Study that week.

# John Wesley

'Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergy or lay; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth'.





Thank You – Any Questions?