



LIVESTREAM

WITH A

#QUARANTEAM

**SMALL GATHERINGS
WITH BIG CONNECTION**



What started out as “two weeks to slow the spread” back in March has become a months-long learning experience on how to live differently amid a global pandemic.

It’s time to assess our reality. The threat and fear of COVID-19 have made a long-term impact on how churches and ministries will gather and experience moments together.

People need to gather together in relationships, but gathering large groups of people poses problems. Many people are not comfortable with large gatherings - and won’t be for some time. And yet, months of semi-isolation have compelled them to realize the need they have for in-person relationships and to be part of something bigger than themselves. In some states, gathering in large groups is illegal right now. In many others, it’s ill-advised and improbable. And yet, people still need connection - to worship together, grow together, and be encouraged by others as they seek the Lord’s will and fullness in their lives.

Fortunately, there’s never been a better time in history to face the obstacles before us with technology solutions that bridge the gap between gathering and safety.

We created this guide to help churches and ministries envision a new ministry experience that will create connection and community on a large scale, in a small format.



Livestreaming

By now, many churches have developed some semblance of livestreaming services. If you haven't, you should. If you have, it's probably a good idea to reassess your solutions that were cobbled together in a mad dash to "get services online" and determine if your current solution is the best and most cost-effective solution for your church. Either way, you need a good way to livestream for all the reasons we'll discuss in this guide.

Livestreaming is the most feasible method for helping isolated individuals take part in a collective without actually being present. Most churches understand the primary use of livestreaming for broadcasting and promoting weekend services and special events. The unfortunate aspect of only using livestreaming for church services is that it limits the understanding to one-way communication when it can be used for so much more.

Even for one-way type communication, there are still many opportunities to engage audiences during your livestream. You can have people comment while it's happening, submit questions, answer questions, and otherwise engage in the "dialogue." However, when an individual is solo-watching a livestream, the engagement might still be limited despite your best efforts. However, gathering people in small groups to engage with a livestream multiplies connection. More on that later.

Before we get to the benefits of livestreaming to groups, let's expand your perspective on all the ways you can use livestreaming to create "phygital" (physical + digital) experiences.

You can use livestreaming for:

- Church services with offers for interaction and comments
- Live Q&A - people want to stay connected and have a lot of questions
- Live prayer requests - have people text in prayer requests and have a team or pastor praying for them in real-time
- Podcasts - reach your own audience and expand your reach beyond your audience
- Live service projects - let people see what you're doing, as you're doing it, to inspire excitement and buy-in
- Pastors' family hangouts to increase connection with congregants
- Personal life events - funerals, weddings, baby showers
- Membership classes and assimilation training
- Worship nights and music concerts
- Special guest speakers and teachers

In many cases, using a livestream can be better than group conferencing tools such as Zoom because people can just jump on and off without the commitment or need to find/log in to the meeting. People can simply follow the link or jump on the site, and they can watch/participate without needing to turn their own camera on, eliminating the barriers to entry that can dissuade participation.

While livestreaming has many applications, the focus of this guide is narrowed in on harnessing the power of livestreaming in a group setting.

So, let's talk about #quaranteams and how effective they can be in facilitating the growth of the local community while simultaneously building connections with the Body at large.



What's a Quaranteam?

Over the past few months, a new hashtag has emerged: #quaranteam.

A quaranteam is a group of people others feel comfortable being around during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are people you might have identified as “safe” people. You share common practices related to face masks, sanitization, and social distancing. They are your squad. The people who have kids that you let your kids play with. The ones you invite over for dinner because you know they aren’t having dinner with everyone else in town. Basically, it’s your safe group.

Many people have consciously or unconsciously limited their social circles to a few people or a small number of families. These are the people they will live “normal” life with; these are their #quaranteam.

In ministry terms, and for our purposes, a quaranteam is simply a small group. It might not have been established according to standard small group practices, in that there was no sign-up sheet or group registration. Rather, the group was formed from natural relationships and shared values. In many ways, this is the ideal way to form a small group because the level of relationship is already high enough to build trust.

So why not take advantage of these naturally forming groups to engage them in the life and ministry that’s happening at your church?

The primary way that a quaranteam can build connections with the church as a whole is through gathering together during your normal service times to watch and worship together. Instead of 10 people watching online alone, they can get together and participate in what’s going on as a group, making the whole experience more fulfilling and more desirable.

Identify Quaranteams

One of the hardest parts about getting a quaranteam ministry going is identifying and calling out the naturally occurring groups in your church. You'll need to publicly share the concept and teach on what a quaranteam is and why it's important to be intentional about gathering as a group to engage in the public, livestreamed aspects of your church. Then you'll need to ask groups to self-identify so you can help them organize and make more meaningful moments.

After you've helped your church identify their groups, you can give them group communication tools in your Church Management Software to help them see their affiliations and understand that they are now an organized ministry within your church.

You'll no doubt have loner individuals who haven't formed enough relationships to be part of a team. And you'll have people who have no qualms about meeting with new people outside their groups because their views on COVID-19 are more relaxed than others. There is an opportunity to encourage those more open groups to invite the solo church participants into their groups, helping everyone get connected.

Make room for everybody on a quaranteam.

Ideas for Quaranteam Gatherings

When quaranteams gather, they can engage in ways that are not feasible alone. You could encourage your quaranteams to:

- Share a meal together
- Develop ideas for service projects and community outreach
- Create discussion questions from the message that the group can use
- Allow enough time before and after the livestream to just hang out
- Get the kids involved and build familial relationships

Over time, your teams will become like mini-churches with a vibrant community. And what's more, because you've coupled these groups with your livestreaming events, you'll emerge with a small group ministry that is more connected to the happenings of the church than ever before.

There exists an opportunity to have a more connected, more robust, more trusting, and more effective small group - small church - ministry than you've ever imagined, even during - and maybe because of - a global pandemic. Take advantage of it!

A photograph showing a group of people, primarily Black, clapping and cheering in what appears to be a church or community center. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and bright lights. The image is partially covered by a teal and orange graphic element.

Input and Output

We've already looked at the ways that livestreaming can impact your church by being broadcast to individuals and groups, allowing for good input and participation. But there's more you can do with livestreaming and quaranteams.

At first, most quaranteams will be recipients and participants of the services, events, resources, and content your church is livestreaming out. But as time goes on, the quaranteams will take on a life of their own, and that life needs to be shared with other groups and the church.

So instead of groups simply receiving and participating with the input from the church, they will start to be creators who are putting out their own unique ministry expressions.

Quaranteams that know how to livestream out can build up your church by sharing:

- Ministry service projects they have undertaken
- Personal events such as weddings, funerals, showers, or birthday parties
- Helpful answers that were derived from group discussion that you prompted
- Words of encouragement to other groups
- Fun, creative content such as jam sessions, skits, and humorous moments

The idea here is that your groups can become like mini-churches, without the risk of losing connection to the Body. They are strengthened in their ability to be a strong, connected group, while simultaneously keeping a strong connection to other groups and church leadership.



Keeping Connection

Establishing livestreaming quaranteams is not a set-it-and-forget-it proposition. You'll have to work at it. Some groups might try to turn into simply social groups. Others might start consuming content that isn't exactly in line with your church. And others might just be inconsistent with their intention.

As with any small group ministry, quaranteams will need oversight from your church leadership.

After you've identified the groups within your church, you'll need to identify and assign leaders. These leaders will be the connection point for accountability. Hopefully, your ChMS has group attendance tools, communication solutions, and other resources to help your group establish some formal practices and rhythms to keep them connected and on track.

Here are some things you'll want to keep in mind as you manage your quaranteams:

- Develop new content that's geared toward small groups
- Ask a lot of questions to spur participation and involvement
- Open two-way communication so you can hear and share in groups
- Meet regularly with quaranteam leaders to keep your finger on the pulse
- Instruct quaranteams on how they can livestream out their activity
- Encourage quaranteams to serve their neighbors
- Create fun and fruitful challenges - fundraisers, evangelism, etc. - for the quaranteams to engage in among themselves
- Provide space to livestream from one team to the others as a glimpse of what's going on in the church as a whole
- Stay consistent with your connection, communication, and encouragement to ensure that quaranteams keep pursuing God together.

It will take some work, but the work is worth it. It might just be time to reimagine what being part of a group and being part of your church looks like.

A photograph of a group of people in a kitchen. A woman with long blonde hair is hugging a woman with dark curly hair who is smiling. A man in a light-colored shirt is also hugging the woman with curly hair. Another person is partially visible behind them. One person is holding a dish covered in aluminum foil. The scene is warm and intimate, set in a bright kitchen with white cabinets and a window in the background.

Small Circles, Big World

Many Christians think that the way to reach the world is to reach more people in large-venue settings. We often want to go and do something big or spectacular. If we can't do it, then we just watch and support those who can. But most people in church leadership know that multiplication through discipleship is way more effective in transforming lives than large public gatherings.

Your people need to know that creating meaningful moments born of authentic relationships will have a greater impact on the world than any "big" thing they could do.

Quaranteams that are strengthened by their connection to the church via livestreaming have an opportunity to more fully develop the person who can be a witness to Jesus Christ. So while they might start as smaller "safety" groups, they will likely become evangelistic teams who can't help but share the reason for the hope they have in Christ, together.

**Livestreaming + Small Groups
= Big Impact in New Ways!**

Choosing the Right Ministry Partner

The know-how you need from experts you trust.

ACS Technologies is the original pioneer of Church Management Software (ChMS). We are firmly dedicated to serving local churches all over North America by providing the best-in-class ministry software and service solutions that help you fulfill Christ's mission for your Church.

Tools and support to strengthen churches.

We build great software, but we don't stop there. We have a "service-first" approach that truly sets us apart. With hundreds of dedicated support and consulting personnel, your staff can reach our team 24/7. We're in your corner to help you with the ministry challenges you face every day.

Ideas and solutions powered by integrity.

Integrity is real for us, and it means consistently being faithful stewards by doing the right thing for church success. We have earned the trust of pastors, church staff, congregants, our employees, and colleagues for over 40 years.

A plan to meet your needs and move your ministry.


We're not just interested in satisfied customers. We see ourselves as your real ministry partner and will work with you to make disciples that will last for an eternity. We're excited to talk about your goals, create a plan together, and set you up with the software, service, and resources you need.

We believe in YOU!


ACS Technologies believes in the local church. Over 75% of our team has experience serving in their local churches. We know firsthand that serving the Church means serving people, and we take seriously our commitment to helping ministries like yours achieve their God-given mandate - to make disciples in their communities, states, and across the world.

Let's Talk

We know the challenges of switching or implementing new technology and how that can be intimidating. But we also know the unbelievable changes that have happened within churches that have partnered with us for their ministry needs. Let's connect and see how we can assist you in the greatest thing you do - grow God's Kingdom.

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