

KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Video Message with Pastor Thomas Rainer
"Notes on Autopsy of a Deceased Church,
And Some Ways to Keep Yours Alive"

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

"So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". **Isaiah 41:10**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. **Corinthians 13:4-8a.**

Message:

Ten years ago, Dr. Rainer began a research project from which he wrote a book "Autopsy of a Deceased Church – Twelve Ways to Keep Yours Alive." This book reached number one bestseller, along with two other books he wrote which also reached number one best sellers - I Am a Church Member, and Simple Church. Dr. Rainer has spoken in hundreds of venues and led over 500 church consultations.

Some statistics shared that although it is hard to confirm just how many churches there actually are in North America, it is estimated that the number of churches is between 350,000 and possibly closer to 400,000 exists. It is estimated that 4,000 to 5,000 churches are planted each year.

From these figures its estimated pre-covid an estimated 8,000 died annually.

But today it is estimated around 10,000 churches die annually. That is a 25% increase in churches dying since Covid.

Results over the 10-year research suggests the top three reasons for their death

- ~ Denial
- ~ Making the Past the Hero
- ~ and Failure to have a Monthly Rhythm of Outreach

Every church that **did die** in the research had one thing in common, **none** had a monthly Rhythm of Outreach happening in their ministry. An example of what consists of a monthly rhythm of outreach is reaching out to the community. Providing ways that could involve evangelism (sharing your faith, moving non-believers to be committed followers of Christ) and outreach. Examples – praying door to door for homes in the neighborhood, providing services and education that help people with their needs, religious and/or secular.

A key factor in churches that **didn't die** was their willingness to look at ministry with fresh eyes...using tools and resources internally and with honest discussions.

Churches exist because everyone needs the hope of Jesus.