

# Ministry Paradigm Shift

✖ The church is about to experience a paradigm shift in preparation for life in 2020. I believe the season for larger and larger houses of worship is coming to an end, as is the *Field of Dreams* ministry strategy that says if we build it, they will come. The idea that bigger is better, especially as it relates to bigger buildings, may be an approach to ministry that is about to transition into history.

Today's technological advances present options for doing ministry unknown in times past that can revolutionize life in the kingdom here on earth. What most of us in megachurches see on Sunday mornings—thousands of worshippers gathering in one location—is not a New Testament model. As the New Testament church grew, the mass gatherings with the Temple as the focal point of worship were replaced by smaller gatherings like the church in Aquila and Priscilla's house. Certainly this shift was precipitated by the unique non-Jewish cultures of these young fledgling congregations, but I think there is a more universal principle being implied: In order to impact a city or culture, it may be more effective to shift from the church gathered in one large location to multiple smaller settings

scattered  
throughout the community and connected by the prevailing  
technology of  
the day. If we were to corner some of my big-building,  
megaministry  
colleagues when the cameras aren't rolling and the reporters  
aren't  
taking notes, many would admit that if they had it to do  
again, they  
would not build as big. I don't think we were out of the will  
of God;  
it may just be that we were par in a season whose time may be  
coming to  
an end. We shall see.

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church leaders.