And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace... will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

1 Peter 5:10
Building Healthy Churches

Many things have changed in 2020. Our work arrangements. Our facewear. Our greetings. Some might even say 2020 has changed how we interact. When did crossing the street to pass on the other side become a polite courtesy?

**Many things have changed. But has the church?**

To be sure, health mandates have required almost every church to change a few practices. Seating requires spacing. Plastic wrappings prepackage the Lord’s Supper. More than a few indoor gatherings have moved outdoors. But at 9Marks, we believe the definition of the church has not changed. A worldwide virus may alter how we clean our meeting space, but it cannot redefine the church. A church is an assembly of repenting sinners who believe upon Jesus Christ and gather around the right preaching of God’s word and the right administration of baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

The Christian gathering was, is, and always will be fundamental to a right understanding of what it means to be a church. In Jesus’ words, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matt. 18:20). While COVID-19 has accelerated chatter about the benefits of “virtual church,” 2020 has proven there is a substantial difference between virtually logging in and actually showing up to be the body of Christ.

Many things have changed in 2020. But what it means to be a church has not. Even in the face of global pandemics, the church is unchanging.
Resources

New Books
We further expanded into the world of mini books with the *Church Questions series*, releasing nine mini books in our rookie year (we like the number nine). Aaron Menikoff published *Character Matters*. Jonathan Leeman also published *One Assembly*, a book which biblically evaluates how gathering is written into the very definition of what it means to be a church. This definition has not changed and should not change.

4 Journals
- *What’s Wrong with Gospel-Centered Preaching Today?*
- *Shepherding: The Work & Character of a Pastor*
- *Pastoring through Political Turmoil*
- *On Heaven* (coming in December)

New Podcasts
Did you know 9Marks now has a podcast network? Alongside *Pastors Talk*, which passed 2 million downloads this year, we also added *Bible Talk*, *Preachers Talk*, and *Journal Talk* to our portfolio of audio resources.

Events
Minutes after our opening welcome at the March Weekender, lockdowns across the country began on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. 9Marks pivoted to equip pastors through our COVID-19 & The Church online resource center. This resource center offers FAQs, articles, and livestream interview events where pastors from four continents helped one another thoughtfully consider everything from member care to church finances to government mandates.

**225,000+ BOOKS SOLD THIS YEAR**

**$31k BOOKSTORE DISCOUNTS GIVEN**

**15k BIBLE TALK DOWNLOADS IN FIRST 4 EPISODES**

**2 million PASTORS TALK DOWNLOADS**

Networks
Events can influence the course of a pastor’s life and ministry. A few hours in the same room, learning and talking together can really move the needle. Conferences turn a few hours into a few days, expanding the potential for growth. But what if we had extended time together? How much might life and ministry change then? What relationships and ministry partnerships might emerge?

We’re about to find out! 9Marks is pleased to announce the opening of our new pastoral training & sabbatical house. Located directly adjacent to the 9Marks office and six blocks from the U.S. Capitol, this building with two apartments is a long-term investment into spending extended, face-to-face time with faithful pastors of local churches, not in a classroom but in a home.

Tiago Oliveira, our first pastor in residence, with his family.
Future lead pastor of First Baptist Church-Lisbon, Portugal.

Along with the U.S., the top 10 countries that visited our COVID page include India, Singapore, and South Africa.
May God use your generosity to build his church.

Thank you to our team of financial investors who help make every 9Marks resource, event, and relationship possible. We are filled with gratitude when we think of you.

9Marks is working with international partners to equip and encourage them in their translation of resources and pastoral training aimed at building healthy local churches. Learn more about the fruit of these partnerships and download dozens of free resources at 9marks.org/about/international-efforts.

Digital Growth

9Marks’ reach continues to spread as shown by some measurements of our digital footprint.

- **380** churches added to 9Marks’ church search
- **80** countries visited our translations page
- **2.5 million** domestic and international website visits
- **18k** hours watched on YouTube
- **307** translated books
- **42** translated journals
- **78** translated core seminars
- **9** language websites
- Active in 46 languages
- New in 2020: Dari (Persian), Hebrew, Hungarian, Norwegian, Serbian, Turkish, Uzbek, VaiPhei

Find print and digital resources at 9marks.org/translations.

Annual Budget

**2020 Budgeted Income**: $2,093,098

- Charitable Gifts: $1,507,000
- Resources: $720,673
- Events: $250,750
- Other: $18,672

**2020 Donation Statistics†**

- Churches: $463,003 (47%)
- Individuals: $413,995 (42%)
- Foundations: $108,861 (11%)

**†as of 9/30/2020**

**2021 Budgeted Income**: $2,100,000

How Money Is Raised

- 60% from Donations
- 505 individuals
- 121 churches
- 12 foundations

How Money Is Spent

- 55% Resources
- 35% Networks
- 10% Events

Fundraising Forecast 2020

- $985,859 Gifts Received
- $369,989 Reasonably Confident
- $151,152 Ministry Need

International

9Marks is working with international partners to equip and encourage them in their translation of resources and pastoral training aimed at building healthy local churches. Learn more about the fruit of these partnerships and download dozens of free resources at 9marks.org/about/international-efforts.

78 TRANSLATED CORE SEMINARS
78 TRANSLATED JOURNALS
9 LANGUAGE WEBSITES