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**The Development of Online Program During Pandemic in Menteng  
Seventh Day Adventist Church Jakarta**

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**Abstract**

*The spiritual impact of pandemic Covid-19 is almost felt by every church in Jakarta. In addition to the closure of place of worship, the quality of service to reach each member who survived the pandemic needs to be maintained. Pastor as spiritual leaders in the congregation ought to be wise and creative in dealing with this phenomenon. This research is the result of development of online service that is being carried out by the author as a Pastor at Menteng Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jakarta in order to maintain the spiritual life of the congregation during the pandemic Covid-19. A quantitative approach by taking into the results of observations on the program that are currently being run is expected to help ministers in the congregation to develop consistency and quality of the program. With the advancement of technology in today's era, the challenge of developing quality in online service to be a blessing for church members is possible. And the results of this development program are not only helping a Pastor to be able to create spiritual programs for the congregation, but more broadly the church can grow spiritually.*

**Keywords:** *Online program, Pandemic, Menteng seventh day adventist, church*

**Abstrak**

Dampak rohani dari pandemik Covid-19 hampir dirasakan oleh setiap Gereja di Jakarta. Selain penutupan tempat ibadah, kualitas pelayanan untuk menjangkau setiap anggota yang bertahan dari pandemik juga perlu dijaga. Pendeta sebagai pemimpin rohani dalam jemaat harus bijaksana dan kreatif dalam menyikapi fenomena tersebut. Penelitian ini merupakan hasil pengembangan dari pelayanan online yang sedang dilakukan oleh penulis sebagai Pendeta di Gereja Masehi Advent Hari Ketujuh Menteng Jakarta dalam upaya untuk

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memelihara kehidupan rohani jemaat di masa pandemik Covid-19. Pendekatan kuantitatif dengan memperhatikan hasil observasi terhadap program yang sedang dijalankan diharapkan dapat membantu para pendeta di jemaat untuk mengembangkan program secara konsisten dan berkualitas. Dengan kemajuan teknologi di era sekarang ini, tantangan untuk mengembangkan kualitas dalam pelayanan online dapat menjadi berkat bagi anggota Gereja sangatlah mungkin untuk terjadi. Dan hasil dari program pengembangan ini tidak hanya membantu seorang Pendeta untuk dapat membuat program-program rohani bagi jemaat, tetapi lebih luas lagi Gereja dapat bertumbuh secara rohani.

Kata kunci: Program Online, Pandemik, Advent Hari Ketujuh, Gereja

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## INTRODUCTION

The world is being attack by Covid-19 pandemic. In Jakarta the capital city of Indonesia, the impact of Covid-19 on the functioning of societies is extremely significant. The current global economic-slowdown has had a major impact on economic growth.<sup>5</sup> The policy from government about local lockdown and work from home (WFH) has reduced business activity.<sup>6</sup> Anies Baswedan, Governor of Jakarta issued Governor Regulation number 33 of 2020 concerning the implementation of large-scale social restrictions (local lockdown) in Jakarta Province.<sup>7</sup> Other than that, the impact also can be felt from a religious perspective. The lockdown policy not only regulates for work activities in the office, but also prohibits people from gathering in places of worship.

One of the functions of the church is fellowship. The New Testament describes a fellowship that was central to the life of first century Christian Church. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common” Acts 2:42,43 (NIV). With this situation, the Church must be ready to set up a model of worship to reach every member in their respective homes. Whereas giving some consideration to the quality of worship in order to maintain their faith during the pandemic.

Menteng Seventh-day Adventist Church is located in Central Jakarta. According to the government regulation and compare with the demographic map of the church members

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<sup>5</sup> Dito Aditia Darma Nasution, Erlina & Iskandar Muda. Dampak Pandemi Covid-19 Terhadap Perekonomian Indonesia. *Jurnal Benefita* 5(2) Juli 2020 (212-224): 222.

<sup>6</sup> Sarman Simanjorang. PSBB Transisi Jakarta, Ekonomi Kembali Bergairah. *Liputan 6 Online* 11 Oktober 2020. Accessed 6 September 2021  
<https://www.liputan6.com/bisnis/read/4379462/psbb-transisi-jakarta-ekonomi-kembali-bergairah>.

<sup>7</sup> Jaringan Dokumentasi & Informasi Hukum Pemprov DKI Jakarta. Detail Peraturan: Peraturan Gubernur no.33 tahun 2020. Pelaksanaan Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar Dalam Penanganan Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) DI Provinsi Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta. Accessed 6 September 2021.  
[https://jdih.jakarta.go.id/himpunan/produkhum\\_detail/10168](https://jdih.jakarta.go.id/himpunan/produkhum_detail/10168)

which scattered throughout Jakarta provinces, it is not possible for church members to come to worship at the church. On March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 the church board announce that all worship and ministry activity will be held through online service.<sup>8</sup> The prohibition of religious gatherings and practices must be considered as a special attention for Menteng Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Church must appear to be the answer to this situation. Because religion plays a significant role in people's live, especially in times of crisis. One of the main functions of religion is helping people to find meaning in life, ever more so in the times of crisis.<sup>9</sup> Church should, however, not only deliver sermons in a time such as this. This is a time when the church should have a message but also becomes the message<sup>10</sup>. Based on facts that has been conveyed, can Pastor at church develop program to reach the congregation during pandemic? What is the model of ministry program that Pastor will provide to increase church fellowship in pandemic? And more than that, can this program help the congregation to grow spiritually?

## METHOD

Research methodology is the specific procedures or techniques used to identify, select, process, and analyze information about a topic.<sup>11</sup> More specifically, it is about how a researcher systematically designs a study to ensure valid and reliable results that address the research aims and objectives.<sup>12</sup> It is also the frame work which is associated with a particular set of paradigmatic assumptions that will use to conduct the research.<sup>13</sup> Overall, a methodology does not set out to provide solutions – it is therefore, not the same as a method. Instead, methodology offers a theoretical perspective for understanding which method, set of methods, or best practices can be applied to the research questions at hand.<sup>14</sup> The method of this research is qualitative. This method is focuses on obtaining data through open-ended

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<sup>8</sup> J Roys Marley Panjaitan, Senior Pastor of Menteng SDA Church, interview by Raden Deddy Kurniawan, Menteng, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

<sup>9</sup> Heidy A Campbell. Digital Ecclesiology: A Global Conversation, ed. (Digital Religion Publication, 2020), 28.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 30.

<sup>11</sup> University of the Witwatersrand. LibGuides. Research support guide for faculty and students. Research Support: Research Methodology. Accessed 7 September 2021  
<https://libguides.wits.ac.za/c.php?g=693518&p=4914913#:~:text=Research%20methodology%20is%20the%20specific,study's%20overall%20validity%20and%20reliability.>

<sup>12</sup> Derek Jansen and Kerryn Warren. Gradcoach. What (Exactly) is Research Methodology? A Plain-Language Explanation & Definition (With Example). Accessed 7 September 2021  
<https://gradcoach.com/what-is-research-methodology/>.

<sup>13</sup> Business Research Methodology. Methodology. Accessed 7 September 2021  
<https://research-methodology.net/research-methodology/>.

<sup>14</sup> Wikipedia. Methodology. Accessed 7 September 2021  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodology>.

and conversational communication. This method is not only about “what” people think but also “why” they think so.<sup>15</sup> This method of research relies on data obtained by the researcher from first-hand observation, focus groups, participant-observation, recordings made in natural settings, documents, and artifacts.<sup>16</sup> This method is used to understand people’s beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behavior, and interactions.<sup>17</sup>

In this research, the population is Menteng Seventh-Day Adventist church which located in Jakarta. Data collection techniques allow the researcher to systematically collect information about objects of study (people, objects, phenomena) and about the settings in which they occur.<sup>18</sup>

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forty-two people completed an evaluation in response to all program that were provide by church. They were given seven questions about each program and the relation to their spiritual life. Those people are divided by the age of 15 years – 25 (26%), 26 years – 35 years (23,8 %), 36 years – 45 years (7,1 %), 46 years – 55 years (31 %), and 56 years above (11,9 %). These forty-two people represent each user who participates in all pastoral program. Each user represents every family in the church.

Seven statements were asked to be responded in connection with the evaluation of the entire program. First, the pastors’ devotional through audio (Pastor Daily Devotional) every morning really helps me to study God’s word every day. Second, the five minutes of Sabbath School Program can help me learn Sabbath School lesson every day. Third, the evening devotional program helps me and my family to increase spiritual life and fellowship with another congregation. Fourth, the midweek prayer program can unite faith and hope as a church member through testimony and united prayer. Fifth, the Sabbath service program is very helpful for church members to enjoy the worship and increasing fellowship through

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<sup>15</sup> question Pro. Qualitative Research: Definition, Types, Methods and Example. Accessed 7 September 2021.  
<https://www.questionpro.com/blog/qualitative-research-methods/#:~:text=Qualitative%20research%20is%20defined%20as,looking%20to%20improve%20its%20patronage.>

<sup>16</sup> Wikipedia. Qualitative research. Accessed 7 September 2021  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qualitative\\_research](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qualitative_research).

<sup>17</sup> Vibha Pathak, Bijayini Jena, and Sanjay Kalra. US National Library of Medicine. National Institutes of Health. Perspectives in Clinical Research. Qualitative, Vol. 4, No.3; pp. 192.

<sup>18</sup> Dr. Khalifa Elmusharaf. Qualitative Data Collection Techniques. Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Researchn Geneva 2012. Accessed 7 September 2021. <https://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/research-methodology/pdf/Qualitative-data-collection-Elmusharaf-2012.pdf>.

Sabbath School group discussion. Sixth, all programs that have been prepare by church (no. 1-5) triggers me to grow in God spiritually. Seventh, even though I cannot physically meet face to face with another congregation, but spiritually all online program were help me to connected one another and encourage me to be involved.

**Tabel 1.** Correspondent

No.	Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	The pastors' devotional through audio (Pastor Daily Devotional) every morning really helps me to study God's word every day	78,6%	21,4%	0%	0%
2	The five minutes of Sabbath School Program can help me learn Sabbath School lesson every day.	69%	31%	0%	0%
3	The evening devotional program helps me and my family to increase spiritual life and fellowship with another congregation	57%	42%	0%	0%
4	The midweek prayer program can unite faith and hope as a church member through testimony and united prayer	73,8%	26,2%	0%	0%
5	The Sabbath service program is very helpful for church members to enjoy the worship and increasing fellowship through Sabbath School group discussion	78,6%	21,4%	0%	0%
6	All programs that have been prepare by church (no. 1-5) triggers me to grow in God spiritually	64,3%	35,7%	0%	0%
7	Even though I cannot physically meet face to face with another congregation, but spiritually all online program were help me to connected one another and encourage me to be involved	54,8%	45,2%	0%	0%

## Worship and Fellowship

The doctrine of the second coming of Jesus Christ was closely held by the early church. Hebrews 10:25 is a doctrinal application verse. The doctrine of the return of Jesus Christ is clearly stated by the writer in this verse. "...especially now that the day of his return is drawing near" (NLT). And the application of the doctrine of the return of Jesus Christ indicated by the sentence "And let us not neglect our meeting together..." (NLT).

The word "neglect" in Greek is "ἐγκαταλείποντες", means to leave behind in some place or let remain over.<sup>19</sup> This word occurs 9 times in the Greek concordance of the King James Version: (1) Matthew 27:46. "...why has thou forsaken..." (2) Mark 15:34. "...why has thou forsaken..." (3) Acts 2:27. "...had left..." (4) 2 Corinthians 4:9. "...but not forsaken..." (5) Romans 9:29. "...had left..." (6) 2 Timothy 4:10. "...hath forsaken..." (7) 2 Timothy 4:16. "...all forsook..." (8) Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking..." (9) Hebrews 13:5. "...nor forsake..."<sup>20</sup>.

Based on the use of the verses above, the word "neglect" is an expression of memorable and valuable moment that cannot be forgotten. That is why the next sentence after the word "neglect" show what is valuable and should not be forgotten, "...our meeting together..." (NLT).

The words "meeting together" comes from Greek word "ἐπισυναγωγή", meaning a complete collection especially a Christian meeting for worship.<sup>21</sup> Calvin, Bohme, Bleek, and others take "ἐπισυναγωγή" as designation of the Christian congregation or Christian religious society.<sup>22</sup> It properly means an act of assembling, or a gathering together, and is nowhere used in the New Testament in the sense of an assembly, or the church. The command, then, here is, to meet together for the worship of God.<sup>23</sup> So here it can be concluded that worship is a necessity that cannot be neglected by believers. It is not only about self-identity and proof that they believe in Jesus, but it is a practical function of worship. Where someone is blessed with the worship, they can be a blessing for others.

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<sup>19</sup> Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. Forsake, leave. From en and kataleipo; to leave behind in some place, i.e. (in a good sense) let remain over, or (in a bad sense) to desert – forsake, leave. Accessed 1 December 2020. <https://biblehub.com/greek/1459.html>.

<sup>20</sup> Messie2vie. Enseignements Bibliques Gratuits. *ἐγκαταλείπω*. Accessed 8 September 2021. <https://www.messie2vie.fr/bible/strongs/strong-greek-G1459-enkataleipo.html>.

<sup>21</sup> Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. Assembling together. From episunago; a complete collection; especially a Christian meeting (for worship) – assembling (gathering) together. Accessed 2 December 2020. <https://biblehub.com/greek/1997.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Meyer's New Testament Commentary. Hebrews 10:25. Accessed Accessed 8 September 2021. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/hebrews/10-25.html>.

<sup>23</sup> Barner's Notes on the Bible. Hebrews 10:25. Accessed Accessed 8 September 2021 <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/hebrews/10-25.html>.

## Technology

The world is moving so quickly right now. Technology makes it moving faster than ever before. Technology is transforming the way people live and work. Technology playing central role in every element. It penetrates in every element of life. Economic, social, health and even education.

Steve Crocker, CEO and co-founder of Shinkuro Inc., responded about technology that life will improve in multiple ways. One particular is in health care. There are three distinct ways of improvements that technology did. One is significantly better medical technology related to cancer and other major diseases. The second is significantly of high-quality health care. The third is much higher and broader availability of high-quality health care, thereby reducing the differences in outcomes between wealthy and poor citizens.<sup>24</sup> Today, doctors and nurses use handheld devices to record patient's real-time data and instantly update their medical history. This makes more accurate and more efficient diagnoses and treatments.<sup>25</sup>

In many ways, technology also has profoundly changed education. Technology is used to support both teaching and learning. Technology also has the power to transform teaching by ushering in a new model of connected teaching. This model links teachers to their students and to professional content, resources, and systems to help them improve their own instruction and personalize learning.<sup>26</sup> In medieval times, books were rare and only an elite few had access to educational opportunities. Individuals had to travel to centers of learning to get an education. Today, massive amounts of information (books, audio, images, videos) are available at one's fingertips through the Internet.<sup>27</sup>

Another significant improvement that education perceives in relation to technology is online learning. In the context of pandemic situation, it is estimated around half the world's students' schools remain shut down. But one of the few positive outcomes from this

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<sup>24</sup> Kathleen Stansberry, Jaanna Anderson and Lee Rainie. Pew Research Center. The internet will continue to make life better. Accessed 8 September 2021.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2019/10/28/4-the-internet-will-continue-to-make-life-better/>.

<sup>25</sup> Rilind Elezaj. Geospatial World. How technology has changed the world of medicine. Accessed 8 September 2021

<https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/how-technology-has-changed-the-world-of-medicine/>.

<sup>26</sup> U.S. Department of Education. Use of Technology in Teaching and Learning. Accessed 8 September 2021

<https://www.ed.gov/oii-news/use-technology-teaching-and-learning#:~:text=Used%20to%20support%20both%20teaching,skills%3B%20increases%20student%20engagement%20and.>

<sup>27</sup> Purdue University. Purdue Online. Education: How Has Technology Changed Education? Accessed 8 September 2021.

<https://online.purdue.edu/blog/education/how-has-technology-changed-education>.

experience is an opportunity to rethink how digital technologies can be used to support teaching and learning in schools.<sup>28</sup> Online learning platforms are the boon for education. Even though before COVID outburst too online training was getting used around the world at a large scale, during this shutdown it is being used the most everywhere school, collages universities etc.<sup>29</sup> Online learning has become popular because of its potential for providing more flexible access to content and instruction at any time, from any place.<sup>30</sup>

## Online Platform

One of the most common buzzwords in technology circles right now is “internet of things” (IoT).<sup>31</sup> The internet of things, or IoT, is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people that are provided with unique identifiers (UIDs) and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction.<sup>32</sup> The term “online” is familiar in internet of things. Online is an adjective to describe a system which is connected to a larger network.<sup>33</sup> More recently, the term “online” has come to mean connected to the internet. In this case, either a person may be online when he or she is using the internet, or the computer itself may be said to online when it has established an internet connection.<sup>34</sup>

Another word that cannot be separated with “online” network is “platform”. Platform is a group of technologies that are used as a base upon which other applications, processes or technologies are developed.<sup>35</sup> In IT, a platform is any hardware or software used to host an application or service.<sup>36</sup> It may be the hardware or the operating system (OS), even a web

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<sup>28</sup> The Conversation. How creative use of technology may have helped save schooling during the pandemic. Accessed 8 September 2021.  
<https://theconversation.com/how-creative-use-of-technology-may-have-helped-save-schooling-during-the-pandemic-146488>.

<sup>29</sup> T Dr. Rini Saxena, Ms. Parminder Pal Kaur, Mr. Amit Saxena. (2020). Role of Information Technology in Education During Covid-19 Pandemic. *International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology*, 29(8s), 4071-4078.

<sup>30</sup> U.S Department of Education. Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development. Policy and Program Studies Service. Evaluation of Evidence-Based Practice in Online Learning: A Meta-Analysis and Review of Online Learning Studies. Accessed 6 December 2020.  
<https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/tech/evidence-based-practices/finalreport.pdfs>.

<sup>31</sup> Beebom. Smart Gadgets. 15 Examples of Internet of Things Technology in Use Today. Accessed 3 December 2020.

<sup>32</sup> Margaret Rouse. IoT Agenda. Definition: Internet of things (IoT). Accessed Accessed 9 September 2021. [What is IoT \(Internet of Things\) and How Does it Work? \(techtarget.com\)](https://www.techtarget.com/definition/IoT).

<sup>33</sup> Definitions for Online. What does online mean. Accessed Accessed 9 September 2021.  
[What does Online mean? \(definitions.net\)](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Online).

<sup>34</sup> Techopedia. Online. Definition – What does online mean? Accessed 9 September 2021.  
<https://www.definitions.net/definition/Online>.

<sup>35</sup> Techopedia. Platform., accessed Accessed 9 September 2021.

<sup>36</sup> Wikipedia contributors. “Computing platform.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Accessed 9 September 2021.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Computing\\_platform&oldid=990830127](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Computing_platform&oldid=990830127).

browser and associated application programming interfaces, or other underlying software, as long as the program code is executed with it.<sup>37</sup> There are some popular online platforms that has been used by most people around the world. Facebook, WhatsApp, Spotify, YouTube, Zoom Cloud Meeting, Instagram, Tik Tok, etc.

### **The Development of Pastoral Program**

In this part the writer will explain all program that has been implemented in the church using online platforms. All of these programs are running into three platforms, Zoom Cloud Meeting, YouTube, and WhatsApp. To execute all of this program, Menteng Church Pastors create a new department called “E-Worship”. This department will help Pastors to run every programs.

### **Divine Sabbath Worship**

This section is weekly congregation worship. Divine Sabbath Worship is run through Zoom Cloud Meeting and stream to YouTube. The E-Worship will be controlling the room for meeting. Four persons will control all element to support the worship. First person will be the host. His duty is sharing all detail of worship (Song, Bible verse, Children story, and Power Point.). The second person will be assisting the first person to admit all members who join in the room, and back up all data in case there is an error in network and device. Third person will control all participants in the room. He will make sure that all video is on or off, spotlight person, pin person, request access to mute and unmute. Fourth person will be back up some participant who has part in worship (opening prayer, closing prayer, Bible reading) maybe they are late, trouble and problem with the connection or cannot join the worship.

Before sermon will be delivered, Pastor will ask E-Worship team to create breakout room. This breakout room will facilitate every church member to join in Bible discussion class. The Bible discussion class will be run for forty-five minutes. This group discussion will discuss “Sabbath School in five minutes” program that has been given by Pastor and elders each day through YouTube. There are seven breakout rooms that are open according to the classification of each class. This includes for children, teenage, and young adult.

### **Family Worship**

This section is daily evening worship (except Wednesday). The meeting will be held through Zoom Cloud Meeting at 7.00pm. In this worship meeting, Pastor will encourage

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<sup>37</sup> Search Server Virtualization. Definition: platform. Posted by: Margaret Rouse. Accessed 9 September 2021. [What is platform? - Definition from WhatIs.com \(techtarget.com\)](https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/platform).

young people to become participants. A schedule will be distributed to all young people including the material for devotional. This method is used to reach young people so that they can participate in family worship with their parents.

### **Midweek Prayer**

This section of worship is run through Zoom Cloud Meeting every Wednesday evening at 7.00pm. What makes it different with family worship is the united prayer. United Prayer is program to share testimony and prayer request. After sharing the testimony and prayer request, worship leader will ask congregation to make small group through breakout room. Three or four persons in each group will take turn to pray for every testimony and prayer request. This method of prayer will teach the congregation to share every burden through prayer. So that they can become a prayer warrior.

### **Pastor Daily Devotional**

In this part, the Pastors will prepare a special devotional for congregation. There are two kinds of devotional that offered each morning by the Pastors. First, devotional that focuses on the daily life of church members. Second, devotional that focuses on chapter by chapter of the Bible.

Every devotional will be recording through audio device, then it will be edited by adding accompaniment like opening and closing song. After editing, the devotional will be shared to each member through WhatsApp. So, before church members do their activities and routines in the morning, they will listen to the Word of God through the devotional.

### **Sabbath School in Five Minutes**

This is a program that equipping the church members to study their Bible everyday. This Bible Study series has been compiled for one year. Then the lesson is divided into four sections. Each section is designed to studied for three months. Pastors and elders will record the Bible Study series into video for five minutes and then publish it on YouTube. This method is carried out to make it easier for church members to study the Bible in a short and not boring.

## **CONCLUSION**

The pandemic covid-19 has been attacked all lines, including spiritual side. The function of worship that was previously carried out directly in the church, now cannot be held optimally. Menteng Seventh-Day Adventist Church answers this challenge by providing an online Pastoral service program. The Pastor of the congregation creates a

continuous program from day to day to maximize the role and function of pastoral care in the midst of pandemic. So that church members not only get spiritual food once a week, but every day they will enjoy it. Of course, by utilizing the technology that is currently developing, these programs can be implemented. Then the maximum results can be felt by the members of the congregation. They can feel the benefits of worship and not lose the meaning of fellowship. They can even study the Bible more personally during the pandemic.

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