



Global Prayer Meeting

April 8, 2020



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Leading Beyond the Blizzard: Why Every Organization Is Now a Startup

By Andy Crouch, Kurt Keilhacker, and Dave Blanchard



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BLIZZARD



WINTER



ICE AGE



BLIZZARD



To treat the crisis as a blizzard is to acknowledge that things are very difficult, to provide emotional and practical support for immediate needs, and to urge people to take extraordinary measures that not only would be unthinkable in ordinary times, but are unsustainable for long periods of time.





Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen

1. In a few minutes, you will automatically be divided into groups of five.
2. We're asking the person with birthday closest to Jan 1 to facilitate.
3. Briefly introduce yourself by giving name, location and ministry. The total time for everyone to share should not go past five minutes, please!
4. Using Matt 6:9-13 as your guide, PRAY! (Others will learn of your needs as they hear you pray.)
5. After 30 minutes, you will automatically be returned to the main group.





To treat the crisis as a blizzard is to acknowledge that things are very difficult, to provide emotional and practical support for immediate needs, and to urge people to take extraordinary measures that not only would be unthinkable in ordinary times, but are unsustainable for long periods of time.

If the crisis generated by COVID-19 is a blizzard, it will be over soon, we will all emerge from our shelter, and resume life roughly the way it was before. Our job in a blizzard is to wait it out.



BLIZZARD



WINTER



ICE AGE



WINTER



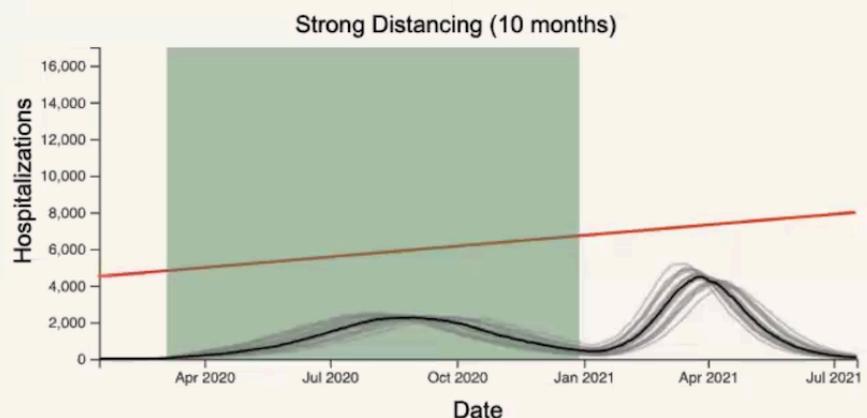
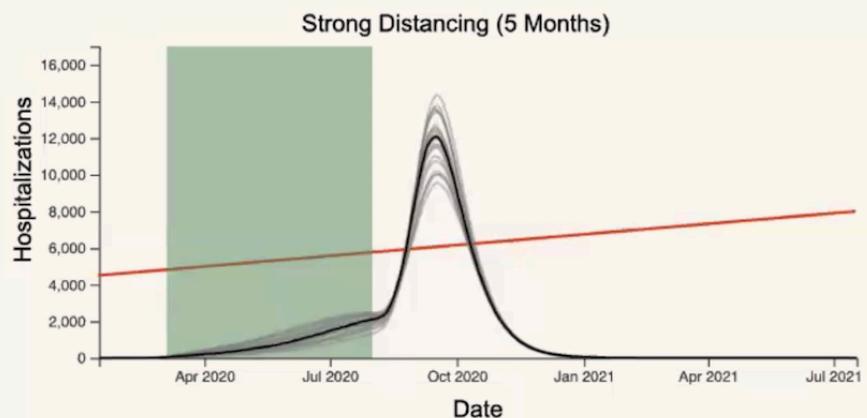
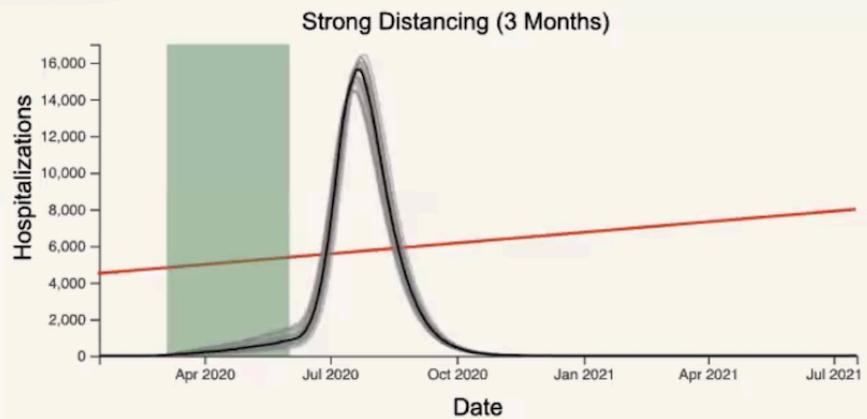
Winter might begin with a blizzard, but it is a season lasting months, not a single event. In cold climates, winter means that periodic acute events (blizzards) punctuate a continuous period in which human activity must adapt to bitterly inhospitable conditions ...

As with winter weather, there will be regional variation.



The bottom line is that even as we weather the current blizzard, and convince others that a blizzard is upon us, all of us should be preparing for a winter in which countless aspects of our society are reconfigured.

Even in the mild weeks, life will be radically different from what it was just a few weeks ago; and as with winter in the northern US, at any time a storm could arise that brings life entirely to a halt.



Courtesy: Dr. Erin Mordecai, Stanford's Department of Biology



ICE AGE



Just as winter is more chronic and long-lasting than a blizzard, and requires different sorts of adaptation, which are in many ways more far-reaching than merely hunkering down for a few days or weeks — so there are even larger-scale events that reshape the climate through countless successive seasons ...

A generally accepted timeframe for the wide deployment of an effective vaccine — though there are huge uncertainties here — is 18 months ... But 18 months is not a season — it is, for many purposes, more like an age or an era.

Crouch, Keilhacker and Blanchard

Key assumption/prediction: Any measures that successfully “flatten the curve” in the coming weeks or months will also extend the curve further out. To the extent we are able to rescue our health care system from total breakdown immediately, that will come at the cost of creating the cultural and economic conditions of “winter,” likely through the end of 2021 - until the population gradually and naturally acquires immunity (at the cost of widespread illness and death), or a vaccine is developed. Furthermore, though it may be possible to lift the most extreme measures, at least for short periods of time, any meaningful impact on the disease burden will require vast, sustained changes in social behavior.





We have portrayed these as nested, interconnected realities - as leaders we must react swiftly to the blizzard that is already upon us, and pivot to survive the inevitable winter under severe conditions, and reimagine our organizations to outlast the rigors of a possible little ice age.



Crouch, Keilhacker and Blanchard

1. Do we accept as a valid discussion and planning tool the conceptual metaphors of blizzard, winter and ice age?
2. Do we accept the assumption “From today onward, most leaders must recognize that the business they were in no longer exists?” and that “every organization is now a start-up?” Why or why not?
3. If we created three baskets labeled ‘blizzard,’ ‘winter’ and ‘ice age,’ what challenges and opportunities should we place in each basket for discussion at the proper time?