



How the collapse of the coal industry and the opioid epidemic prepared a West Virginia church for the coronavirus crisis

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CAPITOL CONVERSATIONS EPISODE

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, changing industries and technology led to massive shifts in American life. And now, after stay-at-home orders end, we will likely emerge to a different world than the one we once knew. Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves and churches can help people fight against despair by meeting the needs of their communities. This is something Pastor Travis Lowe and his West Virginia church have experienced first hand. He joins Jeff Pickering to share their stories of facing uncertain times with the hope of the gospel.

This episode is sponsored by The Good Book Company, publisher of [Where is God in a Coronavirus World?](https://www.thegoodbook.com/where-is-god-in-a-coronavirus-world) (<https://www.thegoodbook.com/where-is-god-in-a-coronavirus-world>) by John Lennox

Guest Biography

Pastor Travis Lowe was born and raised in the Appalachian mountains and is proud to call Bluefield, West Virginia home. He is married to the love of his life, Jessi and they have two children Graci and Dayne. Travis is the pastor of Crossroads Church and he also leads REBUILD.REVIVE.THRIVE., a local business owner think tank for the common good. He is a graduate of Maranatha Bible College and is currently completing a Masters of Ministry through Richmond Graduate University.

Resources from the Conversation

- Watch this video of Bluefield's story: [“When Coal Stops Burning”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=8Ux_ux7OUPs&feature=emb_logo) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=8Ux_ux7OUPs&feature=emb_logo)
- Read Travis' article | [I've Seen the Future. It Looks Like Appalachia](https://www.madetoflourish.org/resources/ive-seen-future-looks-like-appalacia/) (<https://www.madetoflourish.org/resources/ive-seen-future-looks-like-appalacia/>)
- Read the Washington Post article | [A West Virginia church spends Easter making masks, other PPE using 3-D printers](https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2020/04/12/easter-church-west-virginia-ppe-hospital-3d-printers/) (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2020/04/12/easter-church-west-virginia-ppe-hospital-3d-printers/>)
- Connect with Pastor Travis Lowe (<http://www.pastortravis.com/>)

- Learn more about [REBUILD.REVIVE.THRIVE.](http://rebuildrevivethrive.crossroadsbluefield.com/) (<http://rebuildrevivethrive.crossroadsbluefield.com/>) and [Made to Flourish](https://www.madetoflourish.org/) (<https://www.madetoflourish.org/>)
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Jeff Pickering

Jeff Pickering serves as associate policy communications director in the Washington, D.C. office. In this role, he hosts the weekly Capitol Conversations podcast, develops communications strategy, and connects journalists with the organization's policy work. He also serves as the mentor and director of the DC internship program. Jeff previously served in both ... [Read More](https://erlc.com/multi_author/jeff-pickering/) (https://erlc.com/multi_author/jeff-pickering/)



Travis Wussow

Travis Wussow serves as the Vice President for Public Policy and General Counsel. Travis led the ERLC's first international office located in the Middle East prior to joining the Washington DC office. He received a B.B.A. in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from The ... [Read More](https://erlc.com/multi_author/travis-wussow/)
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