

## Being an Evangelistic Church

### Preliminary Considerations :

- A. Growth doesn't just happen. It comes as a result of an ongoing, consistent effort.
- B. Growth requires that a congregation must commit itself to becoming a growing church.
  - 1. No preacher can build a congregation.
  - 2. The congregation as a whole must work. ( No church ever has 100% participation. )
  - 3. All who will .. do, but the lazy members must not be allowed to stop the growth.
- C. Growth is an orientation, a way of thinking ... not a program. ( many small things )
- D. A church ( *a Christian* ) who does not seek the lost, is not faithful to Christ. **I Pet. 2: 9**
- E. Any congregation can become a growing church, but few are willing to do the work.

### I. In order to lead another to faith, one must first have faith himself.

- A. Faith motivates one to actively pursue the goals of Christ. ( **II Cor. 5:14 ff** )
- B. Faith has a drawing power. It radiates and attracts like a light.
- C. Faith cannot long be simulated, but it starts small and grows only when fed and exercised.

### II. The congregation has to have a strong clear message. ( **I Cor. 15:1-5** )

- A. People who are truly seeking God want a church that stands for something.
- B. It's a mistake to think that a weak-kneed approach will attract followers.
- C. Tradition and dry rituals will stifle a church's growth and drive away prospects.

### III. The church must present a warm inviting environment. ( **I Cor. 9: 19-23** )

- A. The facility must be commodious and inviting.
  - 1. The building must present a pleasing appearance. ( to all five of the senses )
  - 2. A church building should inspire reverence. ( Be considerate of cultural stereotypes. )
  - 3. The appearance of the building reflects the attitude of the Christians who use it.
- B. Everyone in the assembly must be made to feel welcome, wanted and accepted.
  - 1. This is one of the most important ingredients in building a congregation.
  - 2. Love between the members can be felt by all, even a first-time visitor. ( **Jn 13:34-35** )
  - 3. Everyone should be included in the loving fellowship. ( clicks form just before death )
  - 4. Every member must warmly greet every person in the assembly.
  - 5. The members must be taught not to dash out after services, but to **Hebrews 10:23-25**.
  - 6. Every member should shake the hand of every visitor. ( Also have special greeters. )

**IV. Make every assembly an occasion of joy, but be done at a truly professional level.**

- A. Our great God deserves our very best, not cold repetitive rituals. ( **I Cor. 14: 26** )
- B. The assembly should be relaxed, but reverent. ( American culture has changed. )
- C. The sermons should motivate, not be theological discourses. ( Pray from the heart. )
- D. The singing **MUST** be joyful, enthusiastic and dynamic. ( It's **VITAL** to church growth. )

**V. Growing churches organize for success. ( Mark 6: 40 , Acts 6: 1-6 , Tit. 1: 5 )**

- A. Everybody's business is nobody's business. Put someone in charge of everything.
- B. There must be clearly formulated goals.
  - 1. The whole congregation must buy into the goals.
  - 2. The goals must be written and kept before all the members.
  - 3. The goals should be mentioned in every prayer. ( part of every member's thinking )
- C. Careful records must be kept and progress reported. ( accountability is fundamental )
- D. Team leaders must make sure that no one is left out. Involve all members who love God.

**VI. The members must train for success. ( Training is the difference between good and great.)**

- A. Each member must know the gospel well enough to share it. ( informally ) ( **I Pet. 3:15** )
- B. Hand pick people for the various jobs and train them for that job. ( ushers, greeters, etc. )
- C. Average is never good enough for the King of all Kings, Lord of all Lords. ( **Rev. 3:16** )

**VII. The congregation must develop name recognition in the community.**

- 1. "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." **Compare ; Matt. 5: 14ff**
- 2. **EVERYONE** in the city or area should know the name and location of the church.
- 3. People are more readily brought into a church they know something about.
- 4. Use a professional quality logo and hook. ( hook = short catch phrase, or motto )
- 5. Use a short name, identity. ( If the congregation is known by a long name, abbreviate it. )
- 6. Creatively advertise, advertise, advertise ( Word of mouth is the best advertising. )

**VIII. GO ... SEEK ... Not just sit and wait for sinners to come looking for the church.**

- 1. Any farmer knows that the harvest comes only after the cultivating and planting.
- 2. Every member must be involved in some aspects of the growth process. ( varied talents )
- 3. Every member needs to give some amount of time **EVERY DAY**. ( even if one minute )

**Love with all your heart and then do whatever is in your heart to do. ... Matt. 22: 37-39**

**REMEMBER : It's God who gives the increase, but only after the sowing and watering.**