



# 20 THINGS THAT WOULD HELP YOUR CHURCH GROW

Things that other churches do that you could do also.

With all these suggestions, I am assuming prayer, dependance on the power of God and obedience to scripture.

All these suggestions have to do with helping your church get better at:

- Reading the Bible
- Prayer
- Sharing the gospel
- Building community and fellowship
- Making disciples
- Serving others in love
- Better leadership and communication
- Reaching out to the unchurched

# 1. Better Calendar Planning and Communication

- Plan a full-year calendar for each area of your ministry – Worship, Sunday School, deacons, teacher training, serving the community, children, students
- Post the calendar on bulletin boards, on your website, newsletters, and on information tables
- Build your email and text list every month. Get contact information from all your members and ask every guest and prospect if they would like to receive information and invitations to your events
- Use your social media weekly to post what happened and what's coming. Some churches only post once every month or even every 6 months.

## 2. Information and Ministry Tables at The Back of Your Worship Center or in the Foyer

- Some churches have a very small foyer but they have plenty of room at the back of their sanctuary.
- When guests and members walk into your church, do they see an easy way to get information about your church?
- Prayer Table – anyone can stop and be prayed for every Sunday
- Small Groups – anyone can find out about where and when group meet
- Student and Children's Ministry – information about all the ways to be involved and what is coming up on the calendar
- Ministry/Community Service – how anyone can help

### 3. Reach Out To Internationals in Your City

- There are hundreds if not thousands of internationals in your city.
- There are international students attending your colleges.
- There are nurses and doctors at the hospitals.
- There are groups of people working in your city from China, Korea, India, Japan, Philippines, Central and South America, and many other countries.
- You could host a church plant in your church.
- You could start a small group or Sunday School class.

## 4. Reach Out To Single Adults

- Almost half the population of your city are single adults.
- Many single adults moved here from other places, and they would love to have friends and community that become their “family”.
- Most of the college students are from somewhere else and don’t have a church home or many friends.
- With so many marriages ending in divorce, there are so many single-again adults who need community.
- There are many single Moms that need friends and support for their children.
- When we invest in young adults in their twenties, we are coaching and mentoring the next generation of leaders.

## 5. Change the Seating in Your Worship Area

- Could you remove the last two or three rows of seats in the back of your sanctuary. Most churches could use more room for mingling and fellowship.
- If you had room at the back, could you have prayer or information tables.
- Could you remove seats from the back and/or the sides so that people were sitting more toward the front and closer together to one another. It often creates a poor impression when a guest walks into a worship area and no one is sitting near one another.
- When people sit closer to one another it helps the preaching, the music and the fellowship.

## 6. Change the Seating in Your Sunday School

- Some teachers sit behind a desk or stand behind a lecturn when it would be better communication if they sat close to the class.
- Some SS classes are set up in rows. Circles are better for communication.
- Some SS classes have 2 or 3 times as many chairs as they need and people don't sit next to each other. It would be better to remove some of the extra chairs and have people sit next to one another.
- Some classes have 15 or more people. With large groups, it would be great if you could use part of the hour to divide into small groups for prayer and discussion (4 groups of 5 people, 7 groups of 6 people)



## 7. Multiply Your Small Groups & SS Classes

- Make it a goal to start 1, 2 or more new small groups every year. Plan ahead to make this happen.
- Every existing group should be mentoring, coaching and training at least 2 new leaders who could start a new group a year from now.
- Discern which age groups or people groups are not being reached. Do we need another children's class? Do we need to divide middle school and high school? Do we need a young single adult class for 22 to 30 years old? Do we need a single-again class for those 30 to 45 years old? Do we need a young couples' class?
- If we are out of space, do we need another hour for SS or do we meet in homes?

## 8. Use Your Groups to Serve Others

- Children, Students and Adults enjoy and learn from serving others.
- The needs are great in the church and in the community.
- Make it part of your strategy that small groups/SS classes will plan service projects to help others. Would a service project every other month (6 times a year) be doable?
- Every group could make their own list of 20 or 30 ideas for a service project.
- They could help a family, a widow, or a single Mom in your church or it could be someone they know in their neighborhood.
- They could help an existing non-profit – school, food bank, homeless shelter, children's home, etc. They could pick up trash in a park or along a road.

## 9. Reduce Church Expenses

- Do you need more than one phone line at your church? Do you need any? Would an inexpensive cell phone in the office be less expensive than a landline?
- How much do you pay someone to do bookkeeping and payroll? An outside agency may be able to do this much less expensively than an in-house person.
- There are different sizes of dumpsters. Do you need one that big?
- There are several phone companies that offer cell phone plans. Is yours the least expensive?
- Have you compared insurance plans lately for property and liability?

# 10. Mentor and Train Leaders

- Your church has some leaders – deacons, SS teachers, staff, ministry teams, music and tech workers, greeters, and others. Are you doing ongoing training with them to help them grow spiritually and grow in their leadership?
- The Baptist Association and the Baptist State Convention have free resources and free training they are glad to do with any of your leaders. Give them a call.
- Sometimes we do a one-time training at our church when what we could do is weekly, monthly or yearly training for all of our leaders.

# 11. Multiply Your Leaders by Coaching

- Ask every deacon to choose an “assistant” deacon to help them. You want your deacon to train his assistant in everything he does – visiting homes, visiting the hospital, sharing the gospel, discipling someone, making a visit when there is a death, making a new member visit, teaching a new Christian class, etc.
- Ask every SS teacher or Small Group leader to be coaching at least one or two leaders in their class. Share the leadership and planning with them. Let them teach every month. Let them facilitate discussion. Let them make announcements and plan outreach or serving activities. Let them help with communication – email, texting, phone or visits.

## 12. Help People Tell Their Story

- Could every small group teach people to tell their faith story once a year?
- Could you preach on this once a year?
- At least once a month, could someone share their story of salvation in the Sunday morning or Wednesday night worship service?
- Could a different deacon tell their story each month in deacon's meetings?
- At staff meetings, could a different person share their story each week?
- Could you print a church member's story in the newsletter or on the website?
- Could you help people practice telling their story in the New Christian or New Member class?

# 13. Start A Different Kind of Worship Service

- Could you start a children's worship service?
- Could you start a new service for Internationals?
- Could you start a video worship service using your own music but watching a preacher who is really good at communicating with the younger generation or with unchurched people? (Andy Stanley, Dean Inserra, Erwin McManus, and many others)
- Could you start a different style service than what you have now - either a traditional or a contemporary to attract people who aren't coming now?
- Could you start a new service in another room around tables with coffee?
- Could your Student Pastor or another staff member preach for a new service?

# 14. Build More Teams

- Committees talk but teams do stuff. Build more teams. You can't do it by yourself.
- Build a team to help with children's ministry.
- Build a team to help with every area of student ministry – classes, mission trips, camps, retreats, outreach events, service projects, music, etc.
- Build a team to plan, recruit and lead missions locally and nationwide.
- Build a team to help with every area of worship – music, tech, greeters, cleanup, information tables, counseling, seating, drama, announcements, etc.
- Building and grounds. New Member orientation. Hospital visits. Counseling.



# 15. Build a Free Website

- Many churches do not have a website. They may use social media like Facebook, but they don't have a website.
- Yes, you can pay money for a company to host a website and for people to work on your website, but it isn't necessary to do that.
- There are free places to build a website (Weebly, Wix and others).
- They are easy to work on (drag and drop and type). Any staff member, church member or 16-year-old can do it.
- When people want to know what time your church meets, where you are located, what calendar events are coming up, how many SS classes you have – they look for a website. More and more people now give online as well.

# 16. Connect With Other Pastors and Leaders

- Your local Baptist Association and the State Baptist Convention offer monthly round tables for pastors, staff and church leaders.
- You can learn from other leaders.
- You can help other leaders who are new and have limited experience.
- You can form friendships that will last a lifetime and be meaningful when your church or your family experience hard times.
- You can partner with other churches to do ministry that reaches your community (camp, mission trip, D-Now, Fall Festival, concert, revival).
- You can help churches that need a resource, and they can help you.

# 17. Add More Greeters

- Adding 6 more greeters on Sunday morning could increase your ministry effectiveness tremendously.
- Add 2 in the parking lot, 2 more at the door to help guide people to a SS class, add at least 2 greeters in the sanctuary to walk around and shake hands and have conversations with any guests they meet.
- Just giving out a bulletin is a minimum, but you can do more.
- A greeter could give a first-time guest a brief tour. He/she could introduce a guest to the pastor or another staff person or leader.
- A greeter could help a family with children to find where they go and guide them to an Information Table with information about other children's activities on the calendar.

# 18. Ask People To Read the Bible at Home

- Ask people to read the scripture passage you will preach on before they come Sunday.
- Ask people to read the Bible verses before they come to Sunday School.
- Ask people in a Small Group in a home to read one or more chapters at home before they come to your small group meeting and talk about what they read and the verses that stood out to them.
- Challenge your whole church to read a Bible chapter every day. If everyone starts with Matthew 1 at the same time and reads a chapter a day, the whole church will read through the New Testament in less than a year.
- People will default to just listening to sermons if we don't help them.

# 19. Increase Sunday School Engagement

- Sit in a circle, not rows. Sit near each other, remove extra chairs.
- Break the hour into four parts.
  - **10 minutes** – Let class members share anything that stood out to them when they read the scripture passage at home. Let them “teach” the class by sharing what they learned. It helps the class member to grow by learning to share their faith.
  - **10 minutes** – The teacher can summarize the main points from the Quarterly that we need to know as Christians. The lecture part needs to be brief, not 45 minutes.
  - **25 minutes** – break into small groups and discuss the lesson and scripture verses. You can use 4-8 discussion questions and be a good facilitator by helping people talk.
  - **10 minutes** – share prayer requests in your small discussion groups and pray for every person every week.

## 20. Increase Worship Engagement

- Encourage people to sit nearer the front and closer to one another.
- Ask people to read the verses for the sermon before they come on Sunday.
- Include a variety of church members to lead singing, pray, make announcements, share a testimony, perform baptism, and more.
- The music pastor does not always have to lead, he can mentor others to lead.
- Include children's groups, youth groups, and adult groups to sing a special.
- Do an occasional drama live or on video.
- By website, email or in the bulletin, give church members 3-5 discussion questions to use to talk about the sermon with family when they get home.