

“INTENTIONALLY” MOVING FORWARD

(BY ANSWERING KEY QUESTIONS WITH THE LEADERS IN YOUR CHURCH)



“THE NEXT LEVEL”

- ◆ Putting Ego Aside
- ◆ Asking Tough Questions
- ◆ Finding God’s Answers
- ◆ Taking Intentional Steps Forward

*“...The whole body is healthy and growing together in love.”
(Ephesians 4:16)*

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WHY ASK (AND ANSWER) THE ENCLOSED QUESTIONS?

1. Because churches that are missionally-minded (outreach oriented) rarely quibble over trivial pursuits!
2. Because leaders who are good vision-casters will help their people stay focused on the purpose of their existence!
3. Because congregations that refuse to adapt lose effectiveness and forfeit their future!
4. Because when memories of the past become more exciting than vision for the future, we begin to die!
5. Because potholes will disintegrate into sinkholes that will halt the growth of His church.
6. Because where there is little creative thinking and little tolerance for change, methods that worked years ago will slowly lose their effectiveness – guaranteed!
7. Because our culture (which is in constant change) demands that we use innovative approaches in reaching lost people.
8. Because it is work to remain intentional in bringing in the unchurched from the outside world.
9. Because it is possible to be culturally relevant without compromising the message of the gospel.
10. Because 80% of all churches in America are plateaued or declining.

BUT MOST OF ALL

100 million years from now only one thing will matter – who is in heaven and who is in hell (and if it matters then, it has to matter now!)

1. Since growth is a natural by-product of health, then what are the factors contributing to our health? (What strengths should we build upon?)

◆ What factors might be contributing to our lack of health? (And what changes would we be willing to make to address what is preventing our health?)

2. How can we intentionally and consistently...

◆ Help our people have a more vibrant relationship with God? (Up reach)

◆ Create more interdependence among one another? (In reach)

◆ Be more of a blessing to our community? (Outreach)

3. How can we follow-up and retain new visitors better (to close the back door?)

4. How can we assimilate new comers more readily and become more permission giving with the ministries in our church?

5. Do we have trained greeters (at the front door early) ushers (who know how to seat people) and altar workers (who know how to pray with people when they come forward?) If not, what are we willing to do to better train our people?

6. Since the New Testament pattern is to transition people from the crowd to the core, then what are we doing to move people along from the crowd, to the committed and ultimately to the core?

7. What else can we do to build more loving community and strengthen relationships? Small groups?

8. As we look at each people group of our church, in what ways could we provide more care for them?

9. If we were to ask our community leaders what people groups in our community we could target in the next year to alleviate their needs (Ex: tutor, ESL, clean parks or roads, etc) what do you think they would they say?

10. Since Acts 6 and Exodus 18 encourage us to enlist others to share ministry responsibilities (so that the pastor can do only what he/she should do), what ministries are you willing to give away and allow ownership to others?

11. Since spiritual maturity is not automatic (Hebrews 5:12), how should we improve our current training process?

12. What electives can we offer (and promote well) to scratch where people itch and be relevant? Example: consider offering a Saturday seminar to our community.

- ◆ Finance?
- ◆ Parenting teens?
- ◆ Marriage enrichment?
- ◆ Divorce recovery?
- (others?)
- ◆ Overcoming addictions?
- ◆ Mothers of pre-schoolers?
- ◆ Singles? Seniors?
- ◆ End time events?

13. What cultural barriers prevent pre-Christians from finding Jesus in our church (music styles, dress codes, etc)?

14. What would you like to see your church be like in five years? Describe your church in five years if God brought your vision into existence.

NOW

15. What incremental steps (by whom) will we take (beginning today) to see positive change take place to become a more missional church?
