

## **No Growth = Dying**

Guaranteed Biblical Strategies to Rebirth Your Church

Growing 15%; Dying 85% Dying Churches Everywhere

Reason Churches not Growing: Weaknesses in their evangelism & growth strategy

Evangelism Strategic Weaknesses

- No strategy at all!

God Desires a Plan of Action

Therefore, go... Matthew 28:19

I plan to go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through... So after I have completed this task... I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. Romans 15:24, 28

Evangelism Strategic Weaknesses

- Bring-them-to-us strategy

Weaknesses of Bring-them-to-us

1. People don't respond as they once did

- Skeptical/apathetic
- Antagonistic/critical
- Mind made up
- Atheist, agnostic, idolater, pagan
- Willing to talk/listen
- Lots of questions
- Hearts thawing
- Not ready for decision just yet
- Understand basics of faith and gospel
- Questions satisfied
- Ready to enter

Kingdom 97+% = 3% Fork-in-the-Road

Why would you accept the Jesus of the Bible, if you have rejected the Bible of Jesus  
Not every season is a season of reaping. I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. I have sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor. John 4:35, 38

Weaknesses of Bring-them-to-us

2. In order to get them to come, we must compromise in unbiblical ways

- . Content of our teaching
- . Subjects we take up/don't take up
- . Give them more of what they want instead of what God demands we share/teach

3. Causes us to overlook biblical requirement that all participate in GC

Earth-shattering Question: Acts 8:1, 4 How did the 1st century church interpret the Great Commission? As their PERSONAL COMMISSION!!

A New Three-Point Strategy: Equip your people to work outside of the church building.

Pointers to Get More Folks Involved

1. Consider changing terminology
  - Consider “promoting truth to others” or “building the kingdom” instead of “evangelizing” or “witnessing”
  - Reality: Negative perceptions exist regarding evangelism and witnessing
2. Train them to engage people around them instead of total strangers
3. Set up an ongoing training and accountability system

Present (Share gospel message)

REAP Harvesting Process

Answer (Give Answers) A

Educate (I.D. Background/Barriers) E

Relate (Befriend) R

A New Three-Point Strategy

1. Equip your people to work outside of the church building
2. Equip your people to answer the questions the lost will certainly ask
3. Focus your “bring-them-to-us” activity on the poor and broken

Jesus pointing to evidence. John 10:30, 33, & 38 Did Jesus give reasons to believe?

Somebody’s got to do the hard work! I have sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor. Jn 4:38. What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ICor.3:5-6

The Broken Always Respond. Mark 6:32-34 and 53-56

Why did the masses follow Him?

Church-based Mercy Keys

1. Focus on core needs: Food, clothing, utilities
2. Focus on things you can easily dispense (e.g., food vs. child care)
3. Focus on things that cannot be easily abused (e.g., voucher to utility co, vs. Wal-Mart gift card)
4. Set up so must come to church building and hear message before receiving gift

## Operation Wishbone

- Thanksgiving meal program
- Advertised in paper
- Members bought list of fixins
- Required registration; sent letter with details (incl. msg)
- Brought in paper bag
- Gift card for turkey only
- Required show up at church 10am Sat. morn.
- After registration at door, heard 15-min message, then received bags

## Operation Wishbone – Results

- Goal: 40 Families
- Church ran 100 avg attendance—over 136 came!
- Pharisees said we wouldn't get 10! E-mail: [wes@evidenceamerica.org](mailto:wes@evidenceamerica.org) to get details on mercy programs
- Final Tally: 70+ Families

## Final Thoughts

Don't expect instant "numbers"

Real success is faithfulness

What is real success? After setting biblically appropriate goals, embracing biblically appropriate means of seeking to realize them...and making course corrections that our assessments suggest, the way of health and humility is for us to admit to ourselves that in the final analysis we do not and cannot know the measure of our success as God sees it. Wisdom says: leave success ratings to God, and live your Christianity as a religion of faithfulness rather than an idolatry of achievement.

What is real success? "Remember me for this, O my God," Nehemiah prays, "and do not blot out [from your mind] what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services." Nehemiah's passion was for faithfulness; whether he had been appointed to succeed he did not know, but he knew he was called to be faithful to the word of his God in all things. And in this he sets us an example of the spiritual person's mind-set, please God, we shall never forget. J. I. Packer, A Passion for Faithfulness

Final Thoughts: Don't expect instant "numbers" Real success is faithfulness. Lord honors those who honor Him

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU? Evidence America is here for you!

## Forcefully Advancing—Evangelism Book

- Non-confrontational
- Full process description:
  - Relate, Educate, Answer, Present
  - REAP Strategy
- Integrates apologetics
- Analysis of church growth/cultural change philosophies
- Designed for small group study
- Model for organizing small groups into FA teams

### Respond—Apologetics Curriculum

- 11 Video Lessons
  - 15-20 minutes each
  - Top Questions: God, Jesus, Bible, Truth, Science, Hypocrisy
- High-end Production Values
- Kit includes
  - 2 DVDs with all 11 lessons
  - 1 CD with softcopy manuals
  - 1 CD with MP3 audio of lessons
- Perfect for small groups, Sunday school, homeschool

### The Spiritual Top 50

- Top 50 Questions about God, Jesus, Bible, Science, etc.
- REAP Strategy from Forcefully Advancing
- Includes brand new...
  - 7 Laws of Apologetics
  - 7 Laws of Evangelism
- Great value!

### The Maker—Apologetics Novel

- Captivating futurist novel
- Integrated apologetics
  - God’s existence
  - Creation/Evolution
  - Hopelessness of evolution
- Integrated gospel presentation
- Built-in Tools
  - Spiritual Top 40 (Apologetics Q&A)
  - Group Study Questions
  - Detailed Gospel Presentation

### Apologetics T-Shirts

#### On-Site Training Conferences/Seminars

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- Evangelism & Apologetics
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- Variety of Subjects
  - God, Jesus, Bible, Cults
  - World Religions, Science, Archaeology
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