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Rio Texas Conference

Building a Vision for Ministry

Devotion: Ephesians 3:7-10

⁷⁻⁸This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

Devotion: Ephesians 3:7-10

⁸⁻¹⁰And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

**God doesn't care
whether your church
grows or dies.**

**God doesn't care
whether there is a
United Methodist
Church in your town
or not.**

**God does care
that the gospel
is being proclaimed
and people's needs
are being met.**

Our Mission

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Leaders Cast Vision

“Vision is a picture of a preferred future.”

Lovett Weems

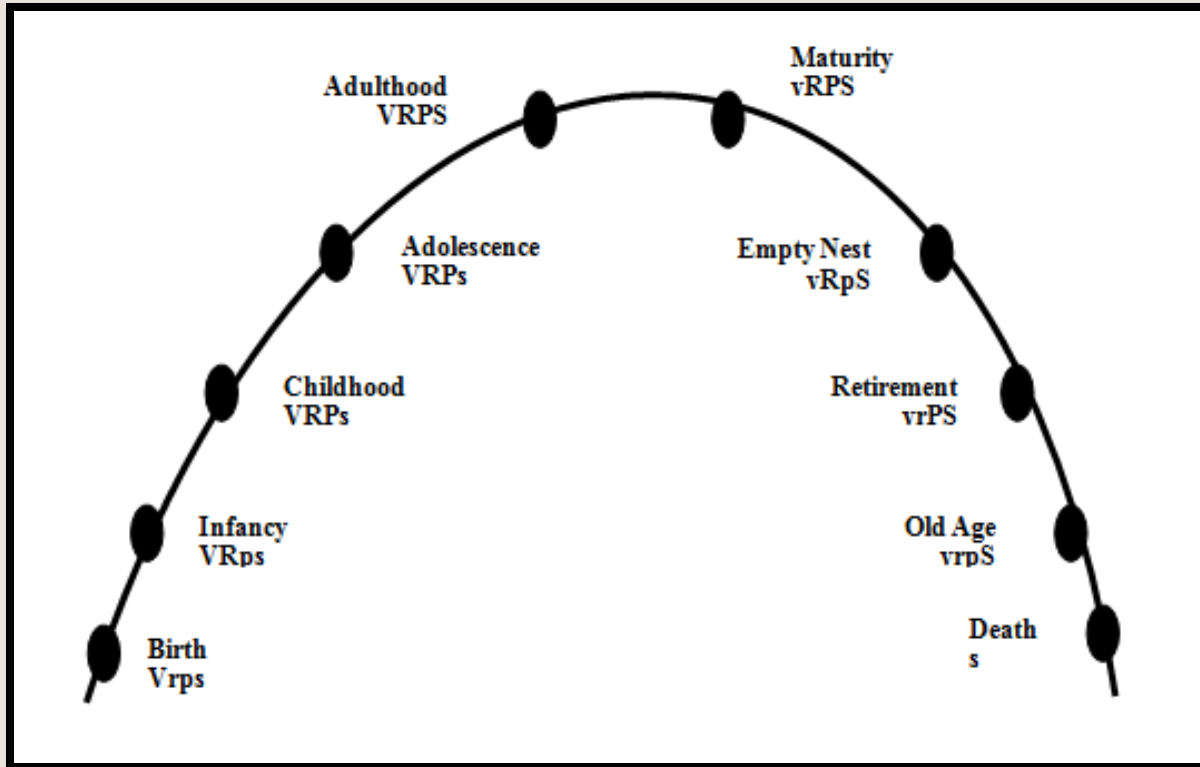


Where are we and how did we get here?



What did you hear? What does it mean?

Church LifeCycle



V = Vision
Where are we going?

R = Relationship
Who is going with us?

P = Program
How do we get there?

S = Structure
What do we control?

Where are we now?

**What's the best thing
about your church?**

**What about your
relationship
with Jesus
do other people
need to hear?**

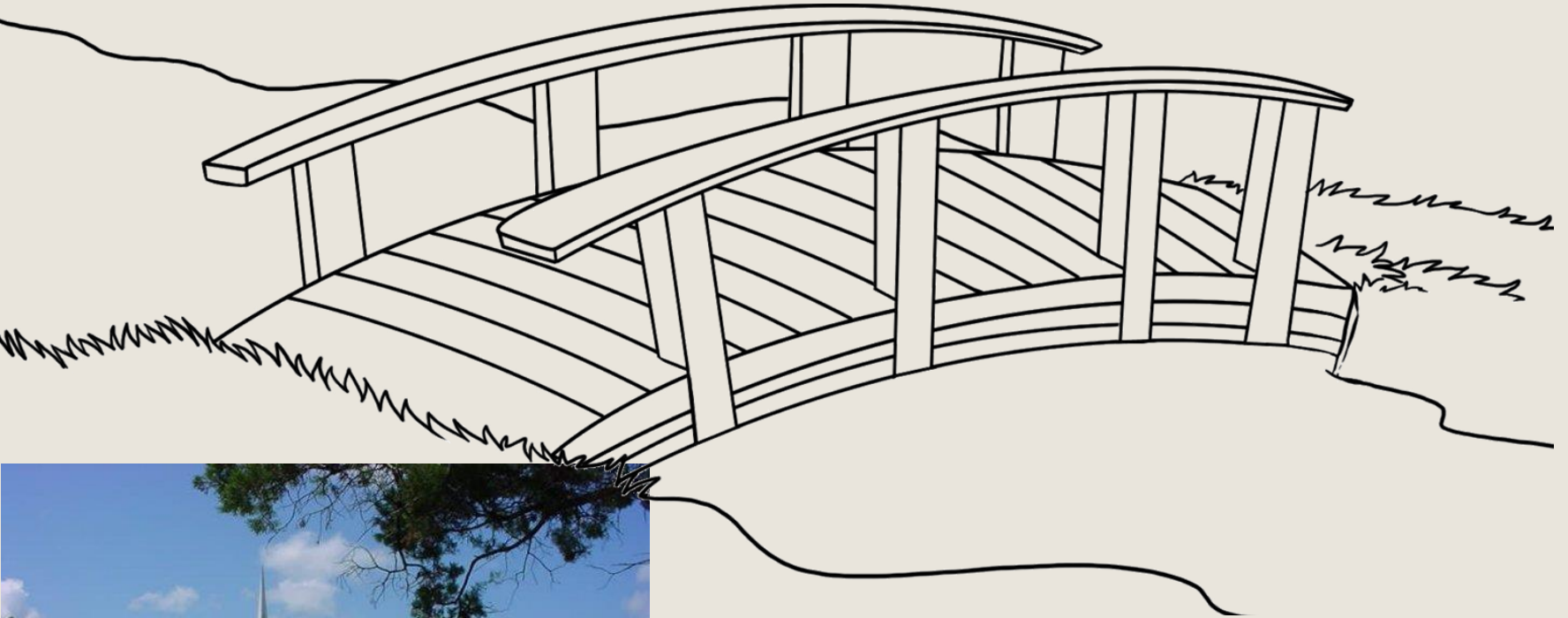
Leaders Cast Vision

“Vision is a picture of a preferred future.”

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What if?

Here is where
we want to be...

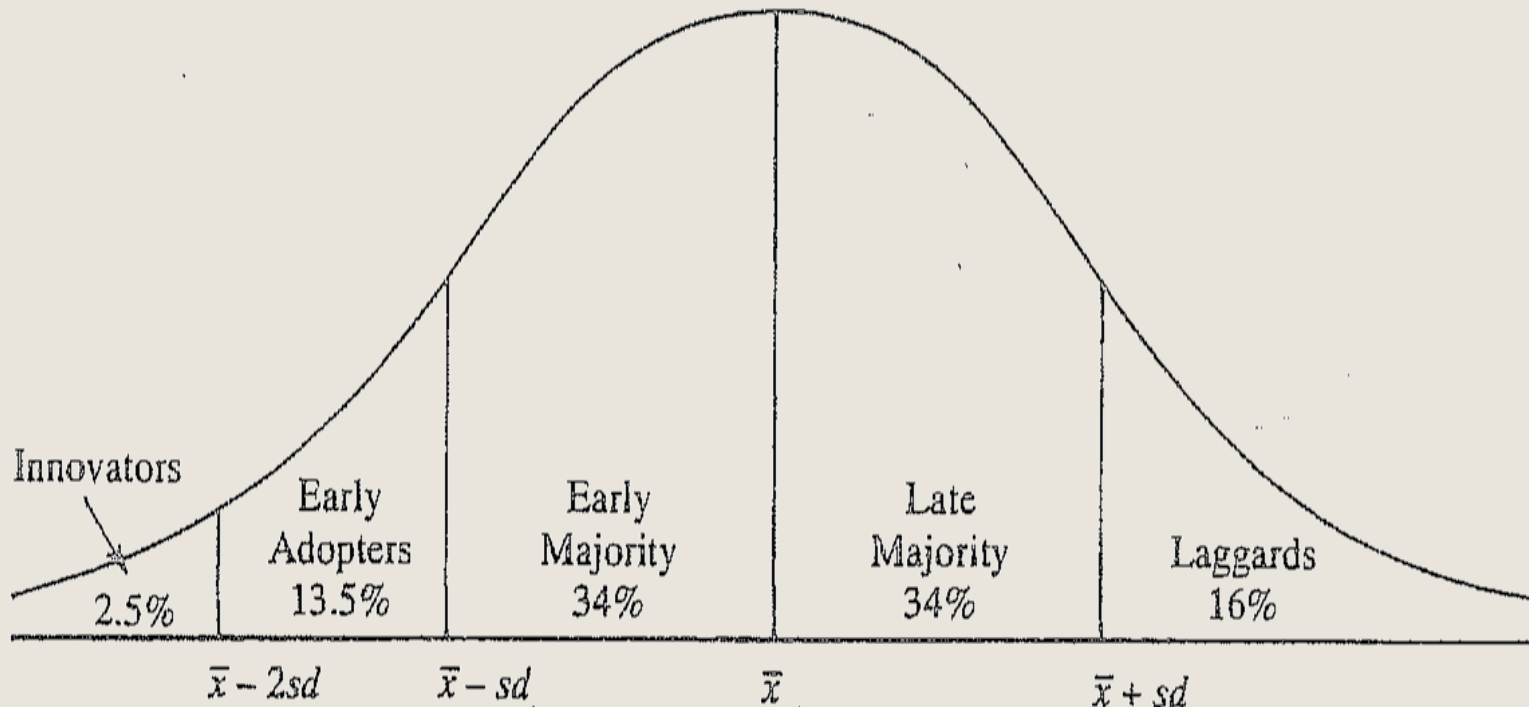


Here is where
we are...

Diffusion of Innovations

Everett M. Rogers

Figure 7-3. Adopter Categorization on the Basis of Innovativeness

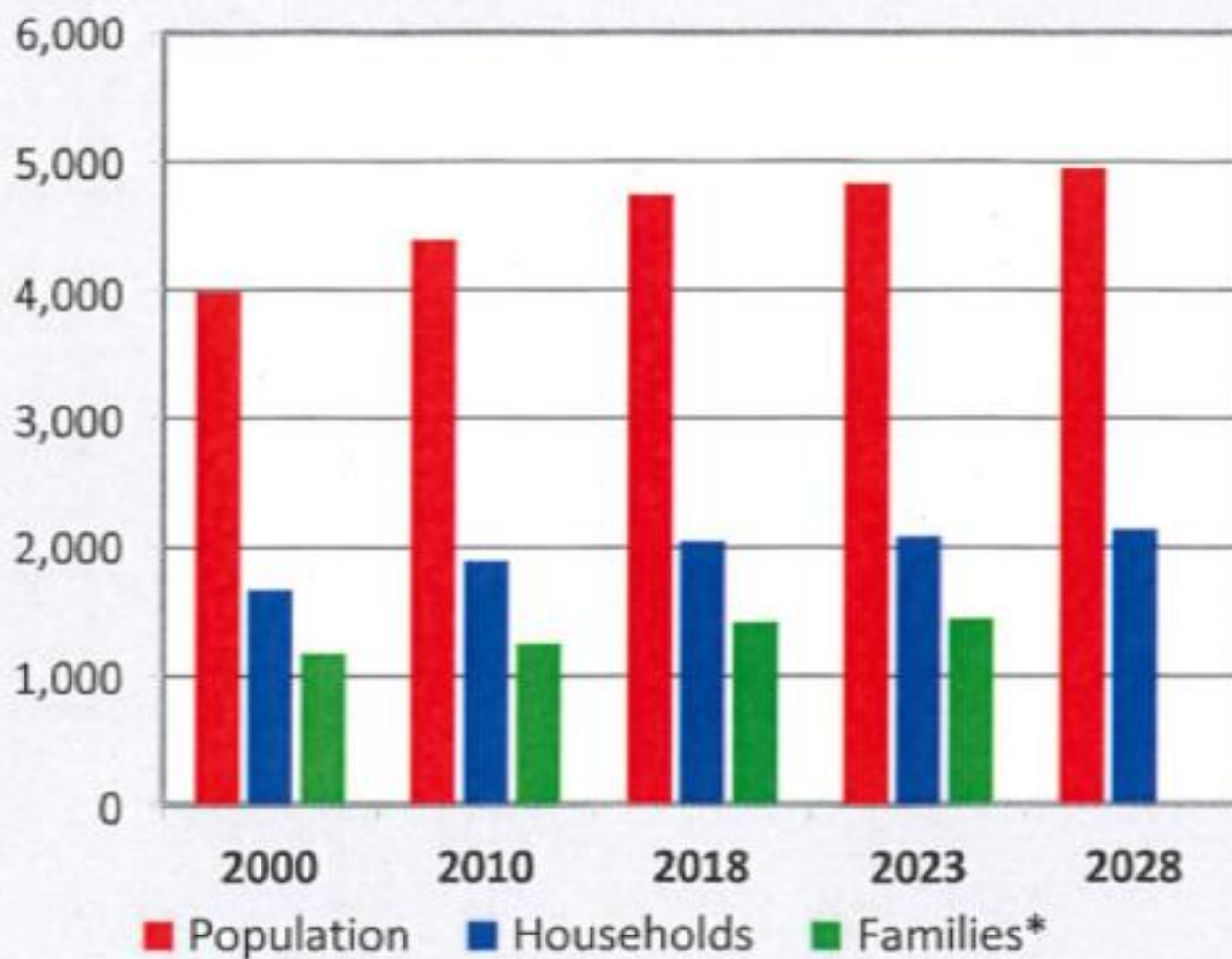


Building a Team

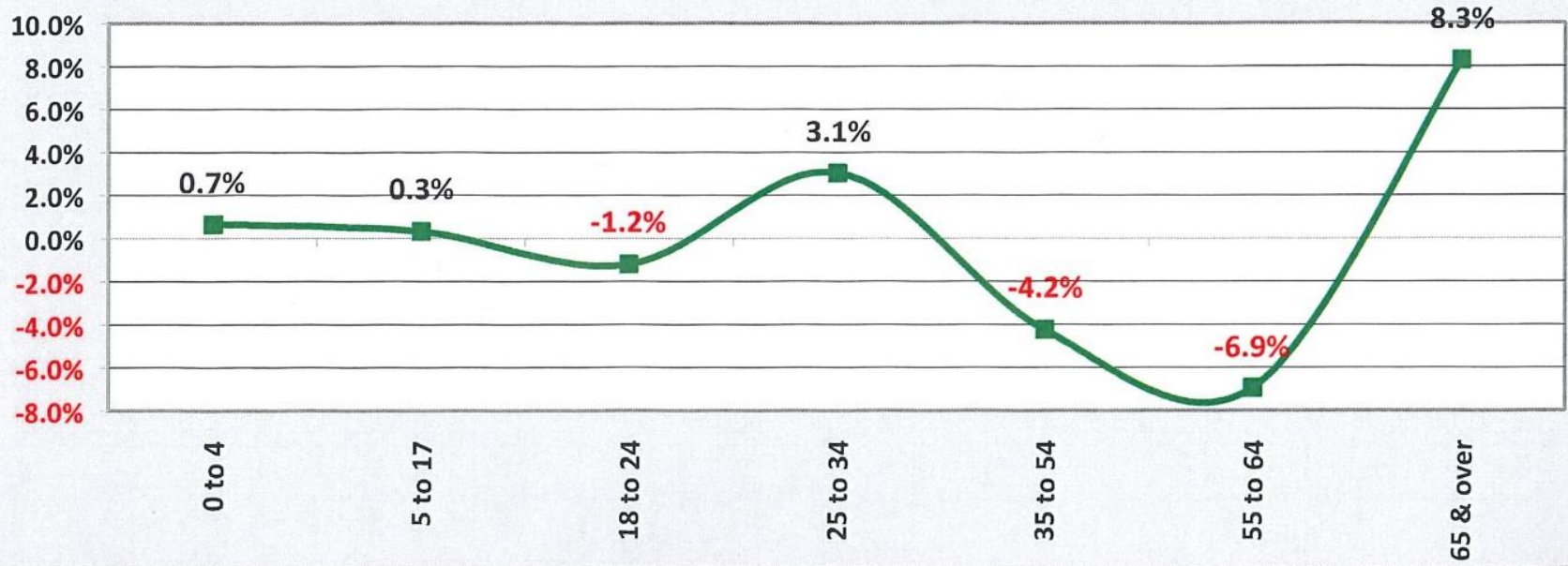
- Get to know “MA” and “PA”
- Identify Early Adopters
- Identify decision making structures
- Communication structures
- Keep the District Superintendent in the loop

Who is the mission field?

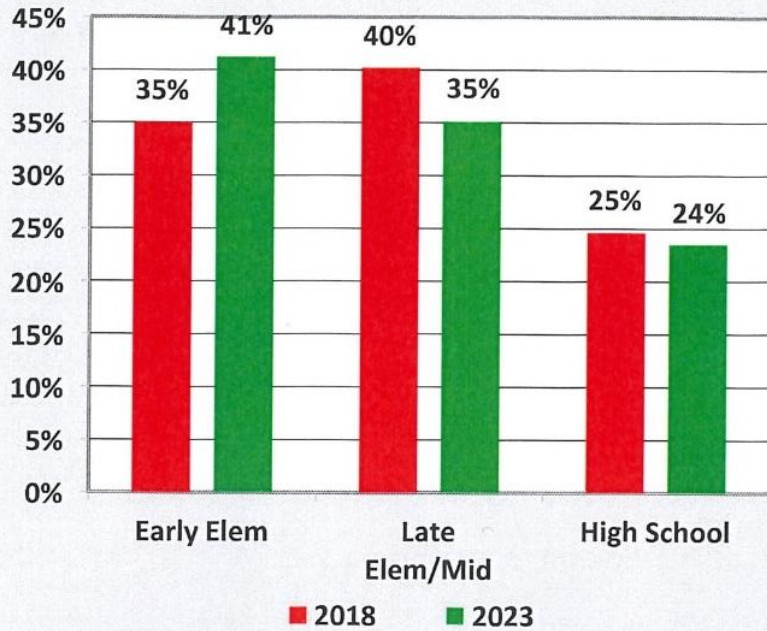
Population, Household & Family Trends



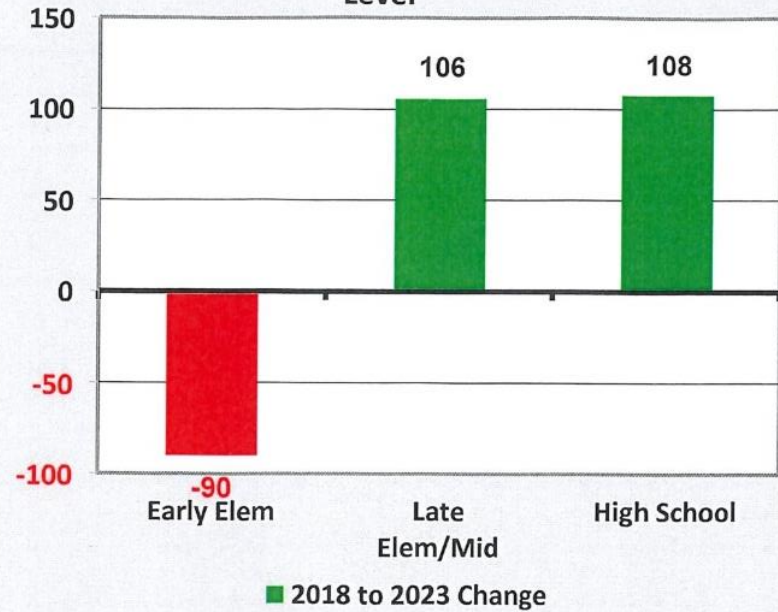
Phase of Life Changes



School Aged Children Trends: By Levels



Comparative Index: Study Area to State by Level

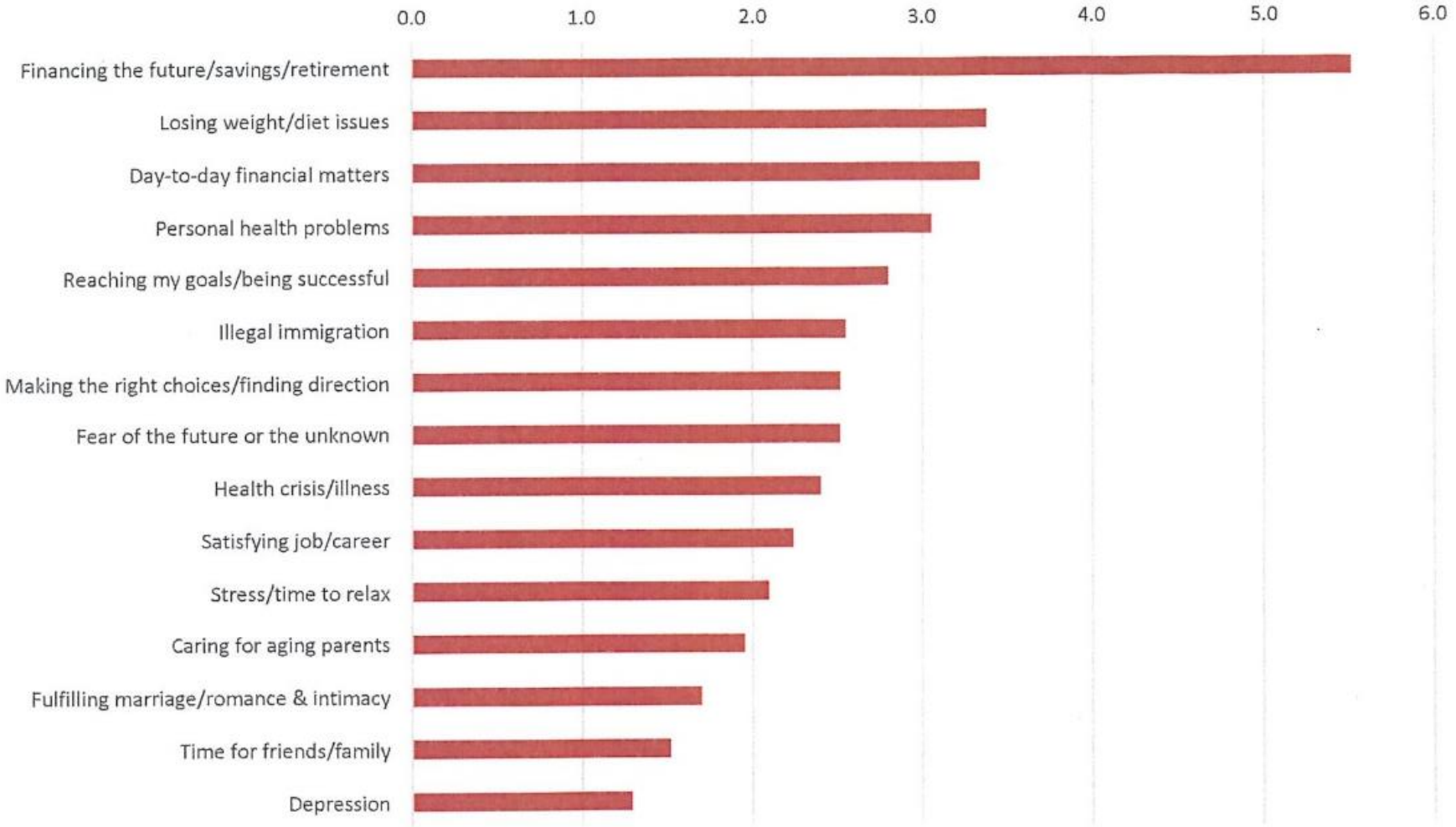


<i>Income Trends</i>	2010	2018	2023	2010%	2018%	2023%	Estimated 5 Year %pt Change 2018 - 2023
Households							
Less than \$10,000	168	133	109	8.9%	6.5%	5.2%	-1.3%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	86	77	74	4.5%	3.8%	3.5%	-0.2%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	262	224	146	13.8%	10.9%	7.0%	-3.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	234	172	225	12.3%	8.4%	10.8%	2.4%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	329	294	224	17.3%	14.3%	10.7%	-3.6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	277	399	369	14.6%	19.5%	17.7%	-1.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	244	275	324	12.9%	13.4%	15.5%	2.1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	200	335	365	10.5%	16.3%	17.5%	1.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	34	84	157	1.8%	4.1%	7.5%	3.4%
\$200,000 or more	64	58	96	3.4%	2.8%	4.6%	1.8%
Totals	1,898	2,051	2,089				

Concerns About Personal Health & Life

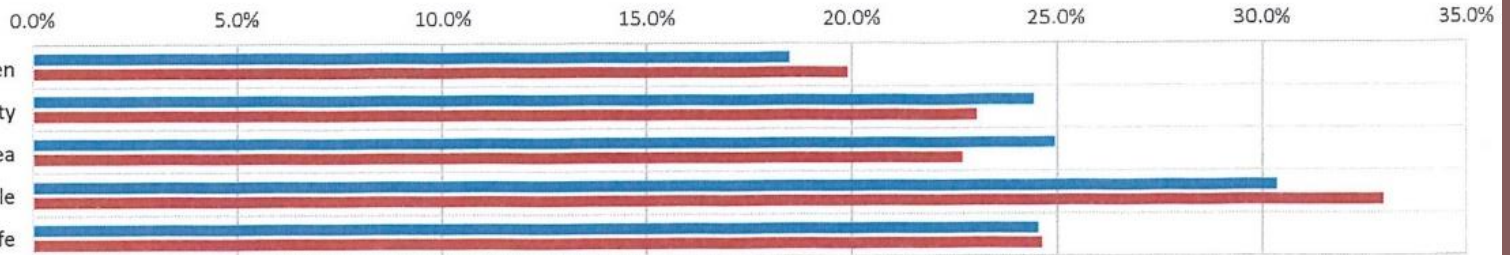
Study Area Compared to National Average	Study Area		National Average		Modest Concern	Significant Concern
	Modest Concern	Significant Concern	Modest Concern	Significant Concern		
Anger management/losing my temper	30.5%	5.1%	32.5%	6.2%	94	82
Depression	34.1%	9.8%	34.9%	11.4%	98	86
Finding a mate/spouse	17.4%	7.0%	18.7%	9.5%	93	74
Getting over the past/dealing with guilt	38.4%	7.7%	38.2%	9.3%	101	82
Losing weight/diet issues	45.7%	20.3%	46.4%	20.1%	99	101
Making friends	35.0%	7.0%	36.4%	8.1%	96	87
Personal health problems	53.4%	17.8%	51.5%	17.0%	104	105
Problems with addictions	12.8%	3.3%	14.8%	4.9%	87	68
Struggling with my sexual orientation	6.4%	2.3%	7.6%	3.2%	85	72
Unemployment/Losing my job	24.9%	10.0%	29.1%	10.5%	85	95
Personal Life Average	29.9%	9.0%	31.0%	10.0%	96	90

Top 15 Life Concerns



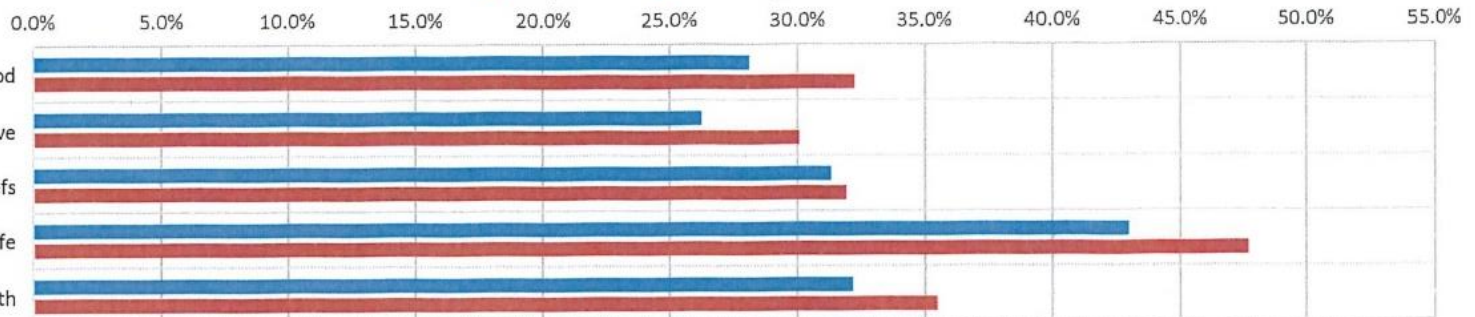
Reasons About *Personal Life* for Non-participation in a Religious Congregation Compared to National Average

■ Study Area ■ US Average

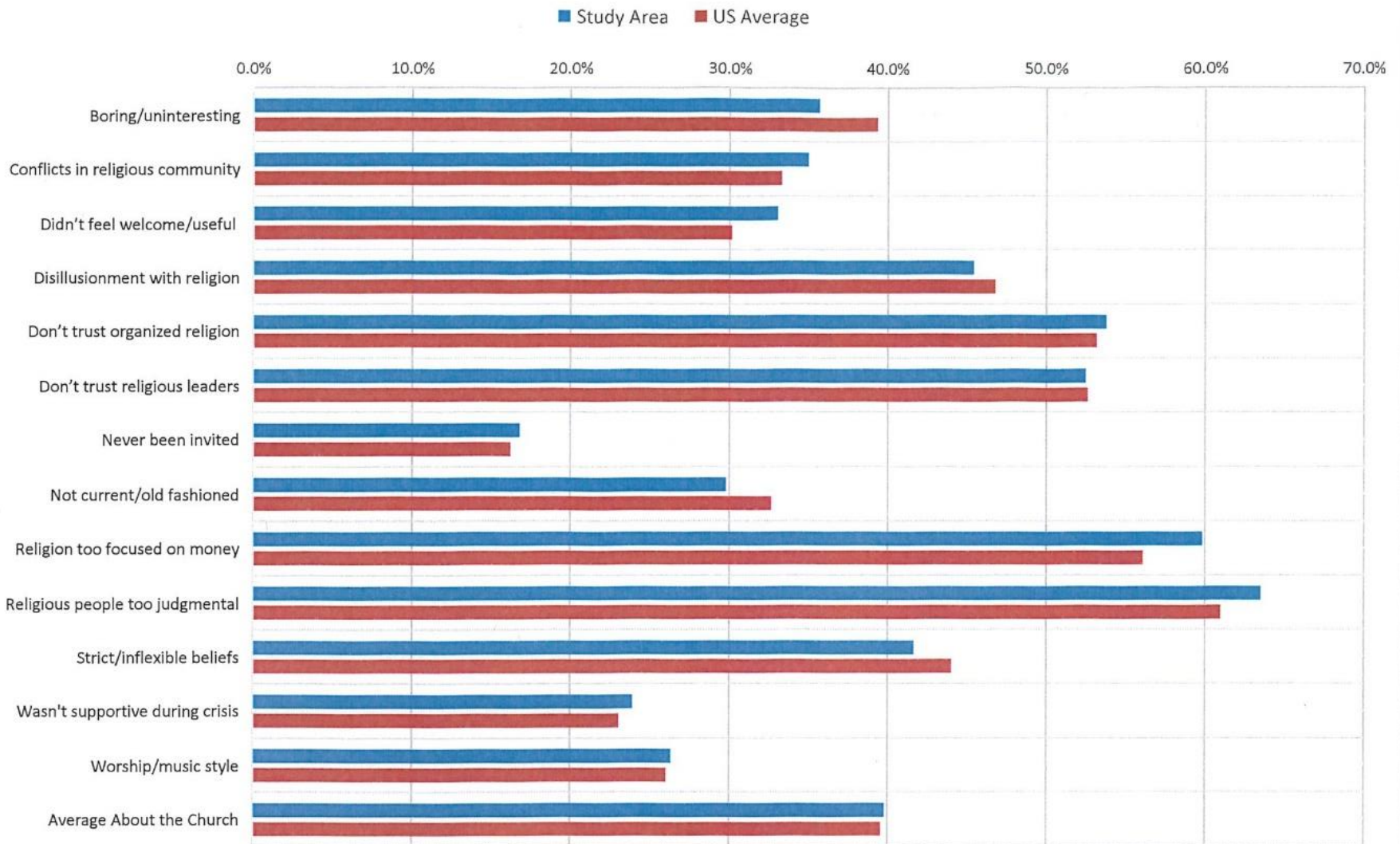


Reasons About *Personal Faith* for Non-participation in a Religious Congregation Compared to National Average

■ Study Area ■ US Average



Reasons *About the Church* for Non-participation in a Religious Congregation Compared to National Average



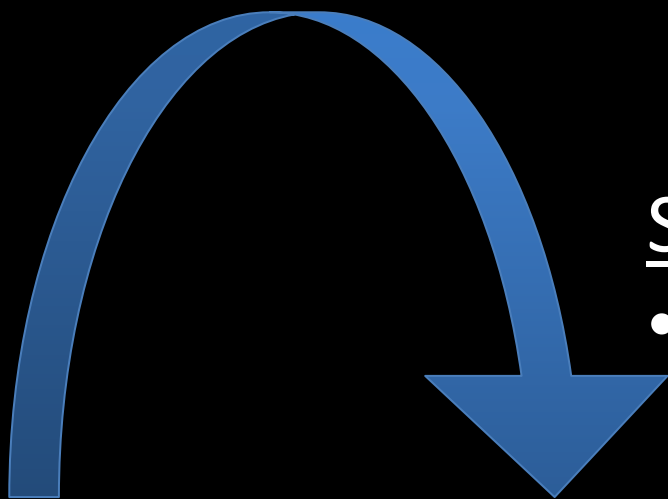
Who is the mission field?



Silent Reflection

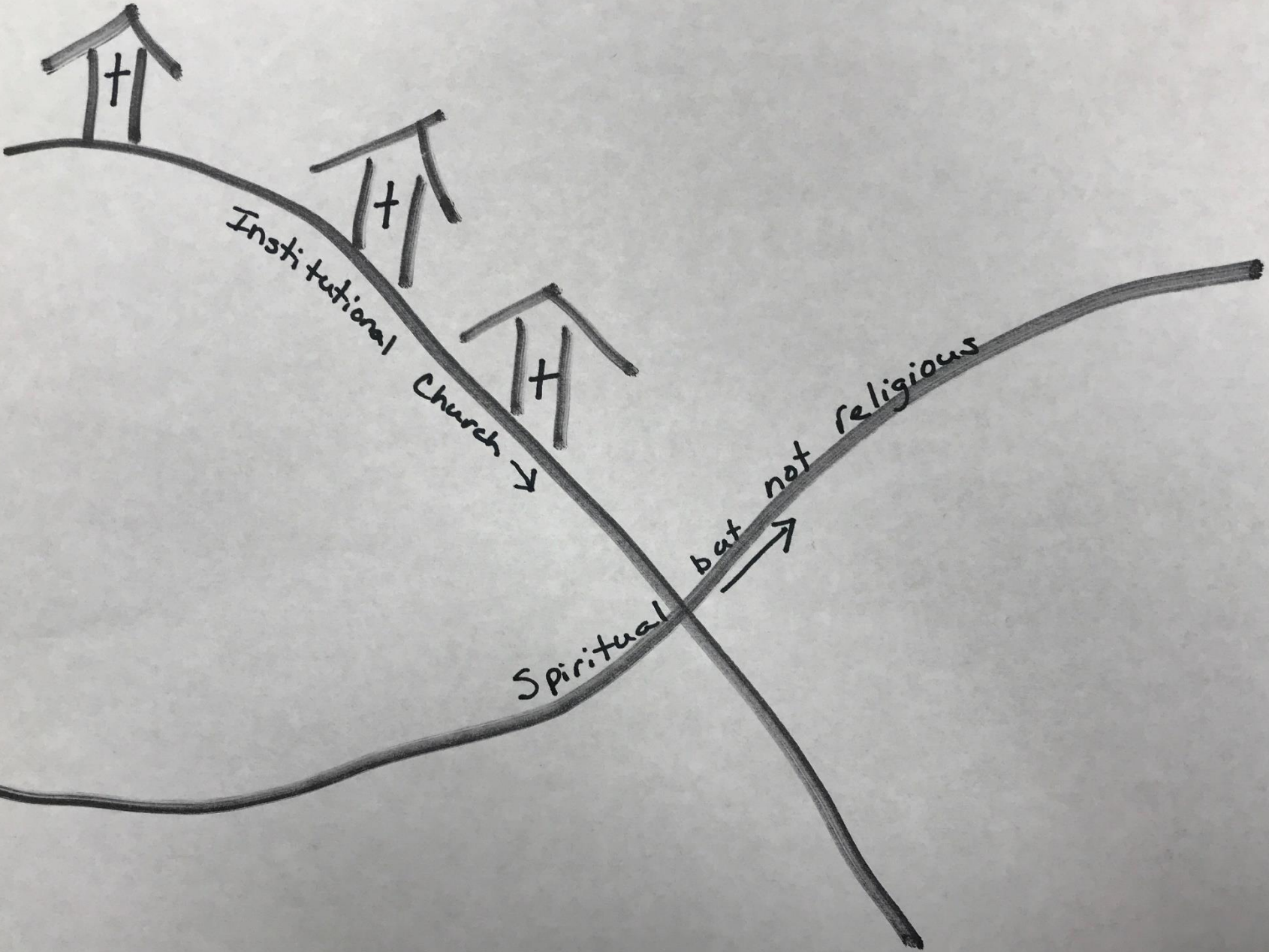


What did you hear? What does it mean?




Sadly...

- 80% of all American UMC churches are stagnant or declining
- Only 20% are growing
- Less than 1% grow from new professions of faith
- 19% of the growing churches grow by transfers






The background image shows the interior of a church. In the foreground, there are rows of dark wooden pews. The walls are also made of dark wood with vertical paneling. On either side of a central archway, there are tall, narrow stained glass windows with intricate designs. The central archway is open, looking out onto a bright, green lawn and some trees outside. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey rectangular area in the upper half of the image.

1. What are two of the best things your home church (or the pastor) does to get into the community and build relationships (not just “one and done” mission work)?

10 minutes

A photograph of a church interior, showing a large arched window with a stained glass design in the center, flanked by two smaller arched stained glass windows. The walls are made of dark wood paneling. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey box.

1. What are two of the best things your home church (or the pastor) does to get into the community and build relationships (not just “one and done” mission work)?

2. As a group come up with five creative things a church could do to reach out to the community to build relationships...***YOU CANNOT NAME THINGS ANYONE IN THE GROUP IS ALREADY DOING!***

10 minutes



Rosario Picardo
Sue Nilson Kibbey

DYNAMITE PRAYER

A 28 DAY EXPERIMENT

Building a Strategic Plan

Who's going to do it?

**When will we have
it done?**



When we aim at nothing in particular, that's what we hit.





Mission

Our mission is making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Everything flows from mission...





Vision



The unique way a congregation achieves or accomplishes the mission.

The key ingredients of a vision statement need to be outwardly focused, measurable, and provides a framework for goals and accountability for the congregation and staff.

What % of the mission field are you going to reach for Jesus?



New Leadership Agenda

Annually

- **Set goals**
- **Set budget**
- **Evaluate**



Church Wide Goals

- Who?
- When?
- Where?
- How?
- Did it work?



Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Relevant

Time-Based



New Leadership Agenda

1/3 – Spiritual Formation, Leadership Development, review of new people/families

1/3 – Review goals / Accountability and reallocation of assets

1/3 – Deal with pressing decisions/issues, help groups as needed, problem solving

Annually set goals and evaluate



Typical Agenda for Simplified Structure with Accountable Leadership

- Prayer
- Spiritual Formation
- Leadership Development
- Review of New People
- Review of Goals
- Pressing Issues/Problem Solving
- Approval & Questions from Packet
- Communication
- Prayer



Questions?