

Prayer

It has been said that a church advances on it's knees. The person who does not pray, does not grow in God. A church that does not pray does not grow. No prayer, no growth - for the individual or the church. Prayer brings revival, revival results in spiritual renewal, spiritual renewal brings witnessing and soul winning. This equals church growth.

Power to Witness

Real church growth cannot occur without courageous preaching and teaching of God's Word. Also neither can there be much church growth without witnessing from the members of the church. The world will never be won to Christ from the pulpit alone.

This task requires the effort of all God's people, praying, witnessing working and giving of themselves.

Great Grace

A growing church has "great grace upon it". If the church members are critical of the preacher, the choir, the ushers, stewards, stewardesses, trustees, the Sunday school, YPDs, and everybody who participate in ministries, if it is a griping, fault-finding, gossiping, and complaining church, it will not grow. A church should have enthusiastic, fascinating members who love attending church and especially hearing about their resurrected Lord.

Willing Givers

A growing church is a giving church. The members who grows in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus is a person who has learned stewardship, willing to share their material blessing with God through the church. When those first church members shared their possessions with the church, "the number of disciples were multiplied", Acts 6:1, "believers were the more added to the Lord", Acts 5:14, "and the Lord added to the church daily" Acts 2:47

It is the plan of God that the church grow. That it be empowered by the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit direct and empower the worship, the walk, and the work of the church and that the church through the power of the Holy Spirit evangelize the world.

The Pastor plays a tremendous part in the spiritual and numerical growth of the church. He provides leadership in recruiting, training and directing people as he organizes and promotes the church. But his most effective leadership in church growth is in the spiritual area where he leads the people to pray, encourages the church to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to boldly witness for Christ.

He encourages the people to show the fruit of the Spirit, to give of their time, talent, and treasure to God through the church and to be of one mind and on one accord



The Lay Organization and Church Growth



The Lay Organization and Church Growth

God planned for His church to grow, and genuine church growth (that is, where people turn away from their sins and accept Christ as their Saviour and Lord) is impossible without spiritual power, the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, it is impossible for the church to have the Holy Spirit and not grow.

Spiritual power means the power of prayers, the power of the Holy Spirit, the spreading of God's Word, witnessing, much grace upon the church members and the giving of the members their time, talents, treasure, and their being united in love. Acts 4:31 gives an example;

*And when they had prayed,
the place was shaken where they
were assembled together; and they
were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they
spoke the word of God
with boldness. Acts 4:31*

*Then Peter said unto them,
Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the
name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,
and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
Acts 2:38*

*17 Praising God, and having
favour with all the people. And the Lord added to
the church daily such as should be saved. Acts
2:47*

In addition to being spiritually strong, the next most important factor in the ministry of the church is the people. Dedicated, committed people are essential to the success of any church, and most churches fail to grow because the people are not committed, untrained, uninspired to fulfill the eternal purposes of worship, work and witness for Christ. Recruiting volunteers workers is not

several ways the Pastor and Laity can recruit volunteers for various ministries of the church.

First

- a. Give personal attention to individual believers.
- b. Be on constant lookout for those who have talent, those who can be trained and used in God's work.
- c. And those who are committed that they are willing to be involved in the work of the church.

Second;

- a. The Pastor/Laity should emphasize the spiritual privileges, opportunities and responsibilities as they enlists workers.
- b. They should be taught that whatever service is rendered, it is as unto the Lord and, therefore, should be done well.

Third;

- a. They can survey the membership periodically. A card or form could be provided for the people to fill out, indicating the kind of service they would like to render to the Lord through their church.

An important factor in church growth is good organization. Good organization is the delegating of responsibilities and requiring accountability for those responsible. The Church can go much further and get there much faster by organizing and planning their efforts. Good organization plans ahead, where certain special days, special events, and certain goals are set.

Goals give direction, help lift our sights, help reach our potential and enlist cooperation and enthusiasm of our members. Various goals can be sets; goals in visitation, recruitment, attendance, finance, and many other areas.

Promotion and Publicity

Another important factor in church growth is promotion and publicity. It is essential that various programs and services of the church be conveyed to the general public. The ministries of the church needs to be promoted within the church and published in the community.

There are other means of attracting people to the church ministry, including billboards and signs in strategic places. Word of mouth, personal witnessing and personal visitation is always good to use.

Another way to aid in church growth is through church bulletin, direct mail, a church newspaper, and bulletin boards. We must take advantage of every situation and opportunity to reach a few more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hard Work

Hard Work is also an essential factor in church growth. There is no magic word or formula that will build a great, strong Bible believing, spiritual church. Hard work, long hours, self denial and sacrifice are necessary.

Spirituality

Spirituality is an important factor in church growth. Peter and John had been arrested and imprisoned and the church had a prayer meeting, it resulted in tremendous spiritual experience for the people as well as great growth for the church. If the church is to have proper growth, it must have the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. There is no substitute for the power of the Holy Spirit in church growth.