

Grow Your Church Through Visitors

Lesson One: The Challenge of Church Growth

The Challenge of Church Growth

One constant challenge for all pastors and church leaders is the growth of their church.

All pastors long to see their church grow. They pray for it. Believe for it. Cast vision for it.

This challenge is constant, relentless and can lead pastors to places of despair and ingrained frustration.

It's during these times of frustration that leaders come to recognise that it is actually Christ's role to grow their church and no amount of striving and hard work will ever change that fact.

We need to position our church for growth.

Some pastors make church growth their goal.

However, sometimes pastors then swing to the opposite spectrum and sit back waiting for God to give that increase. They expect it will happen without their intervention and diligent application to the task at hand.

Veteran pastors will easily relate to these wild swings in their own ministry journey.

The truth that we need to lead from is Christ grows the church while we plant and water. As Paul said "he planted, Apollos watered and God gave the increase" 1 Corinthians 3:6

Vital Truths

Your church will never grow without visitors.

Your church will plateau without visitors.

Your church will decline without visitors.

Your church will die without visitors.

Visitor Focus = Healthy Focus

When a church starts talking about visitors and guests and how we can connect with them and assimilate them into our church you have a church that is immediately on the path to improved health.

Unhealthy churches fixate on themselves.

Unhealthy churches fixate on growth.

Healthy churches have an outward focus that is manifest in care of visitors and attentiveness to their needs.

New Testament Foundations

Care of visitors needs to be firmly founded in New Testament teaching to give us a biblical framework for this essential practice in church life.

These primary texts on hospitality show us that loving our neighbour is designed to be practical in nature.

Romans 12:13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Hebrew 13:2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

1 Peter 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

The Greek word used here means to entertain strangers, to be friendly towards guests.

Download and Complete the Check List

Rate your church's level of attentiveness to visitors.

1 = abysmal

5 = average

10 = brilliant