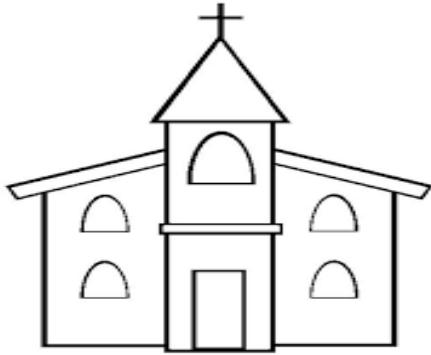


BIG CHURCH -- SMALL CHURCH

AUGUST 27, 2017

INTRO

BIG CHURCH



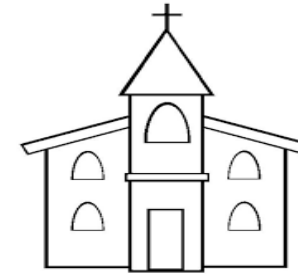
100+

TSS



FBSP

SMALL CHURCH



~20 – 30 <

- Extremes on both ends of spectrum
- Both have a purpose
- Structure, Formatting, should be conducive. to each
- **MUST DECIDE AS A CHURCH WHAT WE WANT**

IN THE BEGINNING

- **Acts 2 -- Started small – They were gathered in one accord**

- Holy Spirit came –they spoke in tongues (Many Nations)
- A multitude came together – BIG CHURCH
- Peter Preached – (BIG CHURCH)
- 3000 Saved – (BIG CHURCH)

- **THEN THEY WENT SMALL**

- So enthusiastic they met Day to Day in the Temple
- Eventually only in the Temple on the Lord's Day.
- Breaking Bread from House to House (small church).

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCHES

- The original Vision was to plant Churches
- Once the Church was so large ---
 - Spin off a Mission -- Once the Church was too large for effective Ministry
 - Many existing churches have avg. age increases and die.
- Why there are so many Miss. Baptist Churches in the South
- Why there are 4 in Springfield
- Why we Have trouble growing beyond certain points
- The Vision & Model is good but Limited

GROWTH STATS

- Average size of Protestant Church –89
- Only 2% of all Churches have over 1000
- 90% of Churches cannot sustain growth above 200.

• PROBLEMS SUSTAINING GROWTH

- STRUCTURE – Too much stress on Leadership.
- ROLE OF PASTOR – Your Pastor

CHURCH LIMITATIONS

- Church's can only work effectively at around 100 or so
 - Even then – it will be a strain on effective ministry (Grecian Widows)
- Effective Ministry caps out at 25-45
- **WHAT IS EFFECTIVE MINISTRY?**
 - Needs can be met, quickly, directly, personally
 - Everyone knows everyone on a fairly personal level
 - Shared prayer requests,
 - Shared burdens
 - Encouragement and exhortation in Love
 - Accountability, Caring, Involvement
 - Family atmosphere

WHY IS GROWTH IMPORTANT

- Because it is related to our Mission
- Healthy Things Grow
- What's wrong with Small Churches?
 - No growth = Death --- “Be Fruitful and Multiply”

REASONS CHURCHES DON'T GROW

1. CONFLICT – Bickering, Arguing, Gossip
2. IN LOVE WITH PAST MORE THAN FUTURE
3. FAKE – JUDGEMENTAL – HYPOCRITICAL – ANGRY
4. FOCUSED ON SELF
5. THINK OF CULTURE. AS ENEMY
6. AFRAID TO RISK WHAT IS FOR WHAT COULD BE
7. CANT MAKE DECISIONS
8. THINK THE CHURCH IS FINE AS IT IS – no Change
9. STRUCTURED AND ORGANIZED SMALL
10. LOTS OF DISCUSSIONS – LITTLE ACTIONS

BARNA INFORMATION

WHY PEOPLE ATTEND LESS

1. More affluence – options
2. Focus on kids activities
3. More Travel
4. 24-7 Culture – Work
5. On-Line Options
6. Cultural disappearance of Guilt
7. Self-directed spirituality
8. Failure to see direct benefit

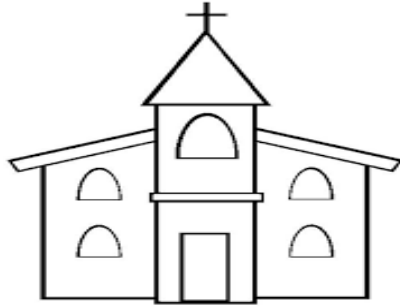
WHY MILLENNIALS QUIT CHURCH

1. Church irrelevant
2. Leaders – hypocrites- Morals
3. God is missing in the church
4. Not Learning about God
5. Legitimate doubt prohibited
6. No Community
7. No elevated Mission
8. No Experimentation

CULTURAL TRENDS

- ON-LINE IS THE NEW DEFAULT
- WI-FI SMARTPHONES
- BRAND LOYALTY IS LOW
- DECLINING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS
- PERSONAL MISSION
- TRUST IN REVIEWS
- ON-LINE DATING – Starts that way doesn't stay on-line.

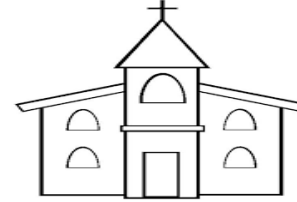
BIG CHURCH



100+

- Singing
- Prayer requests (Public)
- Offerings
- Preaching
- Choir
- Kids Choir
- Announcements (General)
- Teaching
- Worship (Corporate)
- Fellowship (General)
- Ministry (Corporate)

SMALL CHURCH



~20 – 30 <

- Personal Ministry
- Prayer Requests (Personal)
- Singing
- "Altar" Prayer
- Kids Singing
- Testimonies
- Announcements (Personal)
- Teaching
- Worship
- Handshake
- Fellowship (Personal)
- Birthdays/Anniversaries

WHY ARE GROUPS IMPORTANT

- To fulfill the “Small Church Role”
- Does not replace Big Church it fulfills it.
 - A “Shift” of where things happen not a deletion.
- Easier than starting a “new church” –No Limit
- To ensure effective ministry
- Create connections
- Accountability
- Support – Encouragement
- Prayer partners

SMALL GROUP FOCUS

- Building relationships to “Real Church”
- Discuss message – Personal challenges etc.
- Prayer Requests
- Family atmosphere
- Personal Ministry
- Personal growth -- Transformation

SMALL GROUP PARTICULARS

- Establish a Leader – Facilitator
- Can (should) meet other than once a month
- Cancel for Summer – Jun thru Aug?
- Discuss messages – Challenges
- Share Prayer Requests
- Work projects/events together – Loving – Living – Serving
- SPREAD TO ALL GROUPS – SS etc.
- Provide facilitator training (if needed)

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Must decide as a Church what we want to be
 - Where we want to go
- Groups are vital
- Use Big Church to attract Guests (vs Visitors)
- My Vision
- What we leave for future
- DOESN'T MEAN GIVING UP ANYTHING –JUST SHIFTING