

If The Church Will Go, the People Will Come

101st Virtual Convocation—COOLJC
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Facilitator—Bishop Reginald J. Davis

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Source Materials

- ✓ *The Holy Bible*
- ✓ *Reviving Evangelism, Barna Group*
- ✓ *Reaching People under 40, While Keeping People Over 60*
- ✓ *The Habits of Healthy Churches*
- ✓ *Growing Your Church from the Outside In*

Base Text

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

Facing Reality—Statistics Reporting the Decline of Church Growth in the US

- ✓ In the US, 4000 churches open annually. 7000 churches close.
- ✓ American church attendance is steadily declining.
- ✓ 50% of US Christians over 50 attend church regularly.
- ✓ 40% of US Christians in their 40's attend church regularly.
- ✓ 30% of US Christians in their 30's attend church regularly.
- ✓ 20% of US Christians in their 20's attend church regularly.

Facing Reality—Understanding the Unchurched, especially Millennials

- ✓ There is an ambivalence among Millennials concerning evangelism.
 - ✓ 65% of Christian Millennials believe that being a witness for Jesus is a part of the their faith...HOWEVER,
 - ✓ 47% of Christian Millennials say it is WRONG to evangelize.

The Biblical and Practical Evangelistic Imperatives

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The Biblical and Practical Evangelistic Imperatives

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

The Biblical and Practical Evangelistic Imperatives

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

The Biblical and Practical Evangelistic Imperatives

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The Biblical and Practical Evangelistic Imperatives

- ✓ 2/3 of Christians now consider themselves as “lapsed Christians.”
- ✓ 73% of people who do not attend church state that no one invites them.
- ✓ Most churches have more funerals than baptisms.

Is My Church Ready to Evangelize?

- ✓ Is the culture of our church evangelical?
- ✓ How well do we understand who we are called to serve?

Is My Church Ready to Evangelize?

Hotel versus Hospital

Hotel

- ✓ Caters to a target group.
- ✓ Caters to the creature comforts of its group.

Hospital

- ✓ Receives anyone who needs assistance.
- ✓ Focuses on caregiving to those in need.

Church Evangelism in a Variety of Contexts

- ✓ The Sunday Morning Worship...
 - ✓ The primary entrance point for most people. (40%)
 - ✓ 75% of a person's decision to join a church is tied to the preaching of the senior pastor

Church Evangelism in a Variety of Contexts

✓ Neighborhood Outreach

- ✓ Although your church has been in the neighborhood for years, you must continuously reach out to your community.
- ✓ People are more transient than at any other time.
- ✓ Constantly sell your church to your neighborhood

Church Evangelism in a Variety of Contexts— Community Connections

- ✓ What the needs of your community?
 - ✓ Educational Support
 - ✓ Recreational Activities
 - ✓ Food Banks
 - ✓ Social Justice Initiatives
- ✓ The goal is that your church is seen as a community resource.

Church Evangelism in a Variety of Contexts— Social Media Evangelism

- ✓ Facebook—Posts, Facebook Live,
- ✓ YouTube—Video can be archived
- ✓ Podcasts
- ✓ Instagram
- ✓ Twitter
- ✓ Nominal costs, but must be maintained consistently...

Break Out Session

- ✓ Convene (face-to-face) or virtually a group of your church's leaders to develop a 6-month evangelism plan for your church.
- ✓ Include training, planning, implementation and evaluation based on the number of evangelistic contacts made on behalf of the church.