

# WAKING THE SLEEPING GIANT



# CHURCH GROWTH SEMINAR

## What You Will Need:

- ▶ **Waking the Sleeping Giant Book** - \$16.99 on Amazon.com  
(Seminar cost = \$13.00)
- ▶ **Waking the Sleeping Giant Workbook** - \$8.99 on Amazon.com  
(Seminar cost = \$7.00)
- ▶ **Purchase both** - \$25.98 from Amazon  
(Seminar cost = \$18.00)
- ▶ **Notebook for handouts**

# **PREPARATIONS**

**SOME CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE GETTING STARTED**



# **THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP**

# Leadership - Vital to Growth

- Effective leadership must be present for growth to occur.
- An organization can never rise above the quality of its leadership.



# The Law Of The Lid



- ▶ “Leadership ability is the **Lid** that determines a person’s level of effectiveness. The lower an individual’s ability to lead, the lower the lid on his potential. The higher the leadership, the greater the effectiveness.” - John Maxwell
- ▶ If the church’s leadership (including preachers) is not growing in its ability and spiritual maturity then the church will become stagnant.



# Shepherding School



**October 3–5**  
**Northwest church of Christ**

# You CAN be a great leader !

- ▶ Elephant Story
- ▶ God often uses something little to accomplish something BIG! (boys lunch to feed 5,000, David to kill Goliath, Gideon's army, etc.)
- ▶ Preachers and elders should set up a personal growth plan for themselves, focusing on leadership and spiritual growth to "raise the lid" and remove the barrier of self-development.



“A GROWING CHURCH MUST BE DOING  
SOMETHING WRONG.”



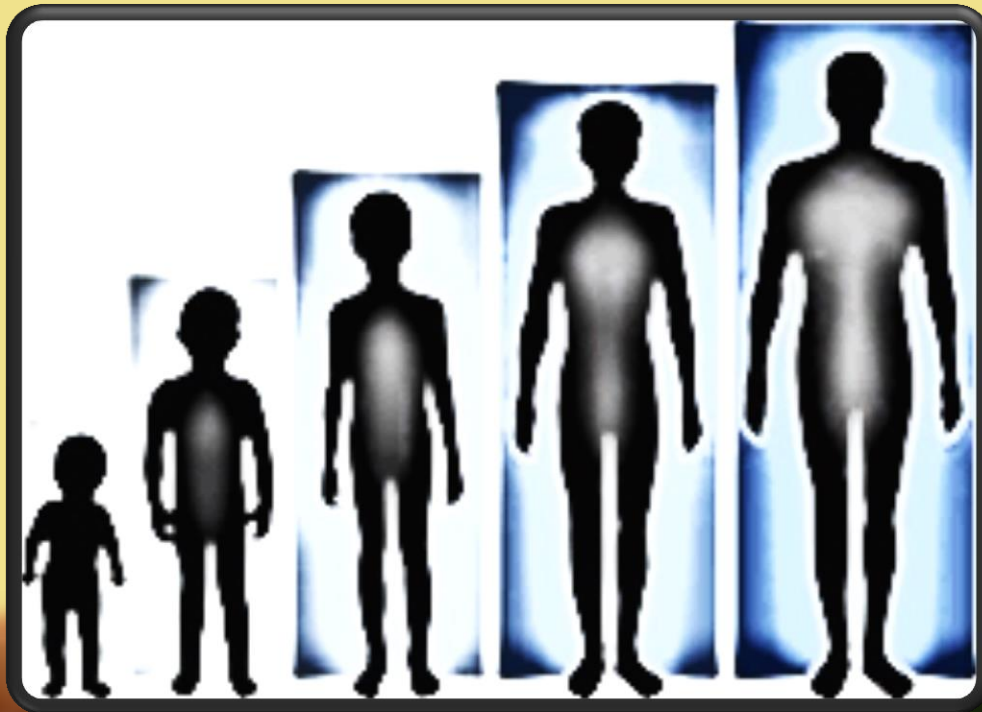
# God Expects the Church to Grow

- Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt. 13:31, 32)
- Parable of the Leaven (Matt. 13:33)
- Parable of Spontaneous Growth (Mark 4:26-29).



# The Church Must Grow or Die

The Church is likened to a body (Eph. 1:22,23) If the human body is functioning as designed it will grow in size and maturity.



# The Church Must Grow or Die

- The Church is likened to a family (1 Tim. 3:15). If a family is to continue to exist they must produce children.



# THE EARLY CHURCH GREW

Acts 2:41

Acts 4:4

Acts 5:14

Acts 6:7

Acts 8:1, 4

Acts 17:6

Col. 1:23



# The Church Grew in the 1950's and 60's.

- The year book of American Churches published the following percentage of growth statics for 1941-1961:
- Churches of Christ.....580%
- Baptists.....152%
- Latter Day Saints.....139%
- Roman Catholics.....105%
- Methodists.....76%
- Disciples of Christ.....50%



# MEMBERSHIP PLATEAUED ABOUT 1980

- Membership has increased about 1.6% since 1980 reaching a total of about 1.3 million.
- In that same period the U.S. population increased by 32%.
- Membership fell in Oklahoma by 13.4% and in Tennessee by 3.1%.
- Rose slightly in Texas by 2% but the population increased by 65% during that time.

**Do you believe God can grow His church  
today?**

**The church of our Lord grew in  
the 1<sup>st</sup> century.**

**It grew in the 20th century, and  
it can grow today.**

# I COR. 3:6 GOD AT WORK

- ◉ Kennedale
- ◉ Willow Springs
- ◉ Burns
- ◉ Hubbard
- ◉ Tylertown
- ◉ Colleyville
- ◉ Northwest

# Do You Have Faith That God:

- CAN grow the church where you are?
- WANTS to grow the church where you are?
  - WILL grow the church where you are?



# Hebrews 11

## “the hall of FAITH”

- Noah built an ark
- Abraham offered Isaac
- The walls of Jericho fell “by faith”



# The sin of doing nothing

The good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

The one talent man (Matthew 25:14-30)



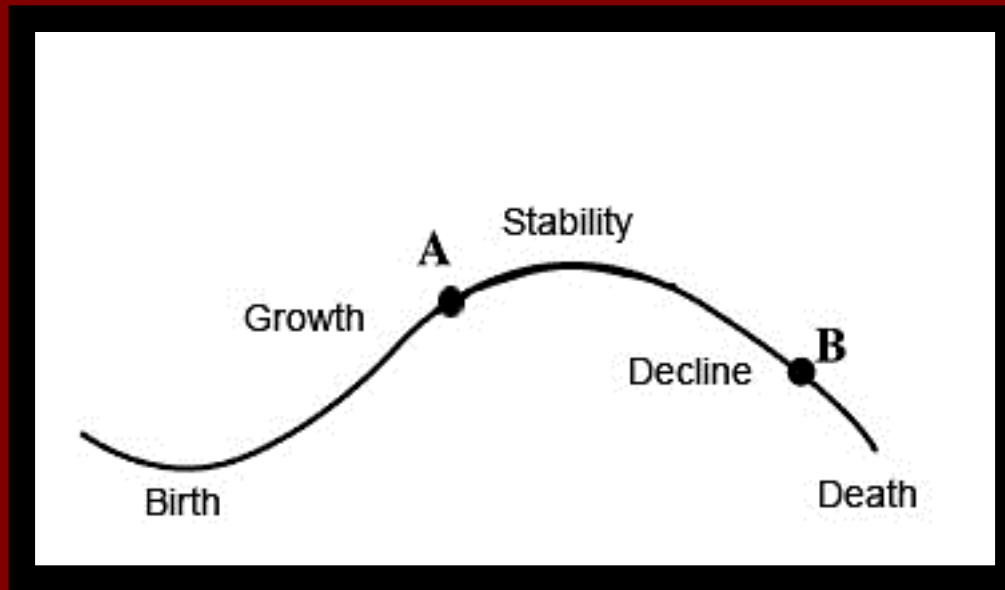
# THE SIGMOID CURVE

“Where are we on the church life cycle?”



# The Sigmoid Curve

The S-curve represents the natural development of biological systems, institutions, worldviews, civilizations, and organizations including the church.



Church growth is like a roller coaster (goes up slowly but...).



# How church growth should look





# The S-curve

- Churches in America tend to reach their peak in health around their twentieth year after which many plateau and begin to decline.
- Most churches of Christ today have reached a plateau or are in decline.

# CHURCH EVALUATION



“What kind of church are we?”



# Answer Questions On Pages 22, 23

- What are we doing well?
- What could we be doing better?
- What should be done that we are not doing?



# MINISTRY ANALYSIS

Rate your congregation's ministries  
on pages 24, and 25.



# PLAN

**A CHURCH WITHOUT A PLAN IS LIKE A BOAT WITHOUT A RUDDER**



STRATEGIC  
PLANNING



“What Are We Thinking?”

Strategic Planning Must Consider:

## Cultural Changes





# “TIMES, THEY ARE A- CHANGIN.”



- We live in a changing world.
- Therefore, we must constantly consider new and effective means to evangelize our communities.
- Definition of “insanity” – Continuing to do the same things and expecting different results.
- Don't be afraid to think “out of the box”.
- Campbell Soup story





# Strategic Planning Must Consider:

Faith in God

Leave room for God in your  
plans



# DEVELOPING A VISION

A dream without faith = fantasy

“What kind of church do we want to be?”



# Strategic Planning considers the Community

- What is the ethnicity of the area around your building?
  - What are their struggles, needs?
  - Divorce, grief, illness, job loss, new to the area, gangs, recent crisis (storm), etc.
- 
- This knowledge will help the church to design ministries that will be effective.

# Paint A Picture

- ▶ What kind of church do we want to be in 2 years, 5 years, and 20 years?
- ▶ Look beyond small numbers, financial difficulties and impossibilities of the present.
- ▶ God gave Abraham a vision of the future nation that He would develop through his *seed*.



**Brain Storm Session- Dream Big \***

# Our Future Church Family:

- ▶ More visitors
- ▶ Welcoming to visitors
- ▶ Evangelistic
- ▶ Caring
- ▶ Family/Unity
- ▶ Sound in the faith
- ▶ Active
- ▶ 100% involvement
- ▶ Growing
- ▶ Double in size in 5 years
- ▶ More young people
- ▶ Better singing
- ▶ Involved in the community
- ▶ Giving
- ▶ Increasing in Bible knowledge
- ▶ Mission minded
- ▶ Elders/deacons





# Writing A Vision Statement

**A vision statement is simply a description of the dreams and aspirations of what could be.**

**See sample page 52 -  
Workbook**



# DEVELOPING A STRATEGY

“How do we get to where we want to be?”



# Plan Strategically

- It is a biblical concept (cf. Nehemiah 3-6)
- The strategy must be designed to accomplish the goals and objectives articulated in the church's mission and vision.

# **6 stage turnaround process**

- 1. How the church views the preacher**
  - 2. How they view God**
  - 3. How they view themselves**
  - 4. How they view the Bible**
  - 5. How they view sin**
  - 6. How they view the world**
- The church will not be ready to reach out to the community until members get “their own house in order.”**

# Where Do We Start?

- ▶ **A planning team - Use people who are easy to work with and have an open mind to new ideas.**
- ▶ **All activities are to be designed to accomplish the mission.**
- ▶ **Consider the vision statement. Where are we trying to go?**

# What should we do?

- Make a list of areas that need attention to help lead the church to its vision.
- Make a list of various activities and works that will help “improve” those areas of need.
- Do not plan more than 3 or 4 major emphasis per year
- Be creative. Plan needs to be broad enough for every member to find their place.
- “Be a hound for ideas.”
- **PLAN BIG** (II Cor. 5:7; Eph. 3:20)





# Communicating The Vision

- Once the leadership is dedicated to the vision it must be presented to the church.
- This best done through preaching (cf. Martin Luther King Jr.'s great vision message).
- Display it in brochures, picture frames, posters, bulletin boards, etc.



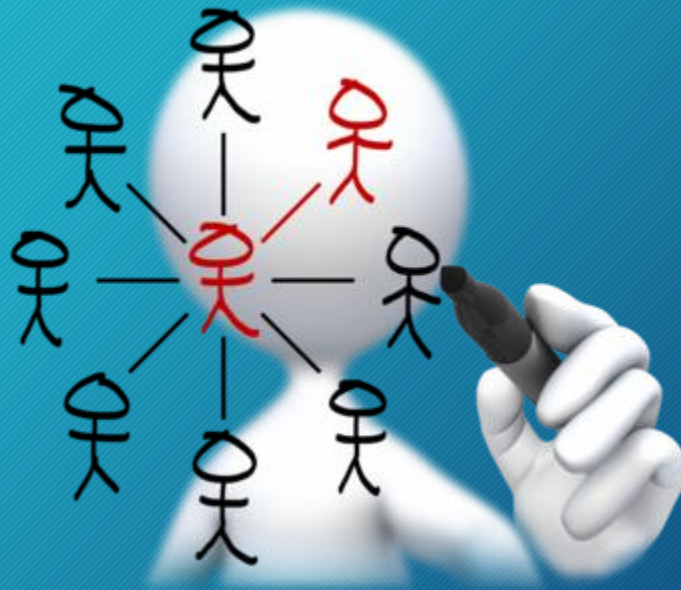
# **PARTICIPANTS**

**LEADERSHIP, VISITORS, MEMBERS ARE ALL KEY PARTICIPANTS**



# IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

“Where do we begin, when, and with whom?”



# **PREACHERS ARE THE SPARKPLUG**

- **HE SHOULD BE AN ACTIVE “CHEERLEADER” TO PROMOTE EVERY GOOD WORK AND ENCOURAGE EVERY WORKER.**
- **HE SETS THE TONE OF LOVE, FRIENDLINESS AND LOYALTY TO THE WORD OF GOD.**
- **AS THE PULPIT GOES SO GOES THE PEW.**

From a visitors point of view

- ▶ The # 1 reason for “joining a church” today is





# From a visitors point of view

- ▶ The number one reason for “joining a church” today is
- ▶ “They made me feel accepted as I am” (greeters, welcome packet, directional signs, facility, etc.)
- ▶ Worship ought to be a celebration.
- ▶ Do away with the funeral atmosphere.
- ▶ Printed materials website ([cocwebdesign.com](http://cocwebdesign.com) ask for Marie) must be “first class”.

# EVALUATING THE Community

**“What is going on out there?”**



# Get To Know Your Community

- ▶ If the church is going to relate to and reach out to the people surrounding our buildings, there must be some time spent in study and research to get to know them better. (see New Mover Program, Saturday Samaritans, Health Fair)
- ▶ This knowledge will help the church to design ministries that will be effective.

# New Mover Program





# MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT IS KEY

- 100% membership involvement is an admirable and worthy goal. (Broad plan of work, work survey sheet, C.O.G. program)
- Training, organization and delegation is a must.
- The pyramid principle and church growth barriers (deacons/ministry leaders)





# When and With Whom?

- Once the church is properly prepared it is imperative that the right people are put into the right place of responsibility.
- Assign leaders/coordinators for each area/ministry who is capable of keeping the focus on the mission. ([dynamicdeacons.com](http://dynamicdeacons.com) by Aubrey Johnson)
- Delegation and organization is key.



# **PRIORITIES**

**THE CHURCH'S MISSION IS TO OBEY THE GREAT COMMISSION**



# Zero In On The Church's Mission

**“Why do we do what we do?”  
Benevolence, visitation,  
fellowship, outreach, youth,  
39er's, education, etc.**

# THE CHURCH'S MISSION WAS GIVEN BY OUR LORD

- Matthew 28:19, 20
- Everything we do should be to the ultimate end of reaching the lost for Christ. (cf. Real Estate business)
- Evangelism is not part of the program it is the program.



# **Church Growth Is A Process Not An Event!**

- ▶ **Various activities will create short lived excitement.**
- ▶ **A growth “process” focuses on developing a certain mindset or attitude in the church family as a whole.**

**The mission drives the ministry. Therefore the church needs to be “soul-conscious”.**



# I COR. 3:6 GOD AT WORK

- ◎ Kennedale (C.O.G.)
- ◎ Willow Springs (O.B.S.)
- ◎ Burns (Bible School)
- ◎ Hubbard (Web Evangelism)
- ◎ Colleyville (Sacrificial Giving)
- ◎ Northwest (Pyramid Principle)

# Every member a soul winner

(Eph. 4:12)

- Sunday School (teachers & students = soul winners)
- Network Evangelism (new converts = soul winners)
- Soul Seekers (OBS, What evangelism will do for you)
- Youth program
- Sports ministry
- Women's ministry
- Men's ministry
- 50% of studies completed result in conversion

# PITFALLS

LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS



# DON'T FORGET TO CLOSE THE BACKDOOR

- Welcome to the Family
- Give them a job
- Northwest connections

Promoting  
your event,  
product, etc.



PROMOTION



# Use every means of social media to promote the event



Your Virtual Event



©Karen May Dy

# MINISTRY FAIR

- ◉ Prayer Warriors
- ◉ Northwest Connections
- ◉ Love Thy Neighbor (New movers)
- ◉ Women's Ministry
- ◉ Men's Ministry
- ◉ Sports Ministry
- ◉ Missions
- ◉ Evangelism
- ◉ Youth
- ◉ 39ers
- ◉ Saturday Samaritans
- ◉ Little Angels (Special Needs)
- ◉ Door Greeters
- ◉ C.O.G. (Christian Outreach Groups)

# Keys to a Productive Plan

- Do not have more than three or four major “emphasis” or events per year.
- Consider dates when scheduling activities.
- 100% member involvement
- Design every ministry to be evangelistically focused.
- Set goals that are attainable but leave room for God to work.
- Follow-up
- Get prior commitments from those in leadership roles of each ministry before launching the plan.
- Pray