

Growth Points

with Gary L. McIntosh, Ph.D.

Volume 25 Issue 8

PO Box 892589, Temecula, CA 92589-2589

August 2013

Top Factors Found in Growing Churches

A recent check of Amazon.com found over 25,000 books listed under the category of Church Growth.

With such a large number of books written on the topic of church growth, it is only natural to ask if there is any consensus on what factors are found in growing churches in North America. One recent study discovered that those who have studied what makes churches grow note 115 different factors.

Only 5% of growth factors are listed by 70% or more church growth researchers.

However, only six (5%) of the numerous factors are mentioned by 70% by all authors. To put it another way, two-thirds of everyone who has written about what makes churches grow agree on just six factors.

What are those factors? I thought you'd never ask!

Spiritual Dynamics

In spite of the criticism that church growth ignores the spiritual dynamics of growth, researchers over the last forty years name this as the number one factor found in growing churches (actually it was a tie with the next factor).

What is included in spiritual factors? The following aspects were mentioned the most: bold faith, biblical commitment, Christ centered, passionate spirituality, regenerated membership, Holy Spirit empowered, personal prayer, corporate intercession, loving relationships, emphasis on spiritual disciplines, and obedient lives.

Effective Evangelism

Since churches must reach new people for Christ in order to grow, the fact that researchers mention evangelism is not surprising.

What is included in effective evangelism? The following aspects were mentioned the most: life-style approach, concern for needs, desire for conversion growth, focus on families, concern for new disciples, outward focus, interest in church multiplication, and evangelism training.

Strategic Planning

The third factor that was highlighted the most was planning and goal setting.

Check out Dr. McIntosh's new website for additional articles.

New website address:

www.churchgrowthnetwork.com

Participate in discussions at

churchgrowthnetwork.com/site/blog

Everything rises and falls on leadership.

Spiritual and evangelistic factors are number one.

Growing churches buy into the concept that what is measured improves. While most churches measure money, growing churches make bold plans and then measure their results.

What is included in Strategic Planning? The following aspects were mentioned the most: strategy, multiplying ministries and groups, finances, facilities, functional facilities, decision-making, analysis, evaluation, appropriate risk, set direction, have objectives, establish vision, rightly discern the church and community, and monitor results.

Excellent Leadership

It is a well-accepted understanding that everything rises and falls on leadership, and church growth students agree.

What is included in Excellent Leadership? The following aspects were mentioned the most: commitment to growth, effective use of authority, willingness to let others lead, expectation of growth, deals with obstacles, contextually aware, values continual learning, motivating, trustworthy pastor, pastor stays long enough, and understands and applies growth principles.

Productive Assimilation

Growing churches keep more people than they lose out the back door. They also help newcomers identify and use their spiritual gifts in serving those inside and outside the church.

What is included in Productive Assimilation? The following aspects were mentioned the most: newcomers involved quickly, welcoming climate,

multiplies groups and classes, ministry training, spiritual gifts, mentoring relationships, uses small groups, and builds a people flow strategy.

Inspiring Worship

The final factor that was noticed by over 70% of church growth researchers is inspiring worship. This factor included everything that helps make corporate worship dynamic, such as, preaching, music, atmosphere, etc.

What is included in Inspiring Worship? The following aspects were mentioned the most: a pastor who loves people, biblical preaching, passionate communication, authentic leadership, spiritually alive, contextually appropriate, and team ministry.

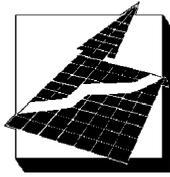
Other factors most certainly play a part in the growth of a local church, but these six factors garnered a consensus of all researchers over the last forty years. Which of these factors is strongest in your church? Which one or two are the weakest? Which factors do you need to work on this coming year?



Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D.
See the full article on Dr.
McIntosh's blog at

<http://churchgrowthnetwork.com/site/blog>

Growth Points is published twelve times a year. The subscription price is \$20 (Bank or World Money Order) per year. Permission is granted for use in a local church. For other reprint usage, advance permission must be obtained. Formerly published under the title *Church Growth Network*. Copyrighted 2013 ISSN 1520-5096



Close Out Offer on Staff Your Church for Growth

Ministry Insights for Church Leaders

P.O. Box 892589 Temecula, CA 92589-2589
www.churchgrowthnetwork.com

Get Your Autographed Copy While They Last!

We just received word that *Staff Your Church for Growth* has been discontinued by the publisher. However, we purchased the remaining copies and now is your chance to obtain this best selling book at below market price.

Critical data show that half of all churches have some form of multiple staff, and many others are considering the addition of professional staff in the future.

As churches seek to minister effectively in the twenty-first century, many consider adding professional staff members to meet the changing needs of modern congregations.

When is it time to hire another pastor? How should a church begin the process of looking for support staff? What responsibilities should a new pastor assume? Would a part-time or full-time position benefit the church most?

Thirty years in the field of Church Growth have given Gary L. McIntosh the wisdom and experience to answer these questions, and his advice will guide you in selecting the staff that can help your church grow.

The book features . . .

- > models for team ministry
- > keys to productive team ministry
- > guidance for determining when to add staff
- > techniques for effective interviews
- > steps to managing staff conflict

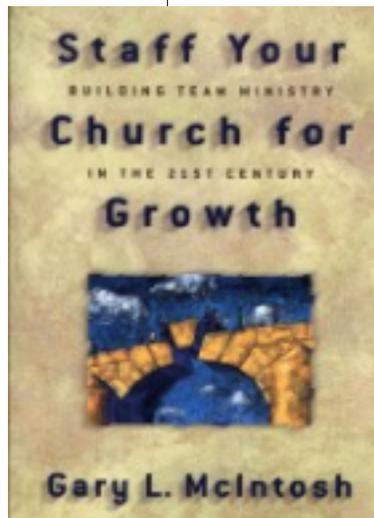
Charts, graphs, and illustrations are used throughout, and anecdotes move the book beyond theory to practical application.

If you are a pastor or church leader considering the addition of professional staff, or if you are currently serving a multiple-staff church, you will find *Staff Your Church for Growth* an invaluable tool for guiding your ministry in the twenty-first century.

Whether you are ready to add staff, or you are already fully staffed, you will applaud this comprehensive manual.

Get your copy while they last!

**Order today by calling toll
free
1-877-506-3086**



Yes, send me _____ copy(s) of
Staff Your Church for Growth at \$10.00 each
(\$14.00 outside U.S.A. on U.S. Funds/Bank)
plus S/H of \$4.50 for the U.S.A. and \$5.50 in
Canada. CA residents add 8.00% tax.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Visa or MC #: _____
Exp: ____ / ____ 3-digit code _____
Signature: _____