

Growth

‘Pastors of growing churches, whether they be large or small, know how to motivate their lay people, how to create structures which permit them to be active and productive, and how to guide them into meaningful avenues of Christian service’.

Peter Wagner,
quoted in Planting Growing Churches,
Aubrey Malphurs, p222

‘You can one of two things in church planting. Control. Or growth. But you can’t have both’.

Discussion: What characterises the growth stage? What’s happening all around you? What will it feel like to be in it?

An Overview

1. Where are you?
2. Where do you want to be?
3. When do you want to be there?
4. What’s stopping you from getting there?
5. What’s enabling you to get there?
6. What’s the direction to get there?

Biblical Assumptions

There are some biblical assumptions with which I’m working

Three Approaches to Organisation

1. Idolising organisation
2. Ignoring organisation
3. Implementing organisation

The Five Dimensions of Growth

1. In terms of congregational numbers: quantity
2. In terms of congregational composition: diversity
3. In terms of congregational relationships: unity
4. In terms of congregational transformation: maturity
5. In terms of congregational life: activity

There are three critical stages to growth: before, during and after launch/birth

1. You need to design a plan for growth
2. You need to implement a plan for growth
3. You need to evaluate your plan for growth

1. You need to design a plan for growth

Why would they come?
Why would they stay?
Why would they leave?

Five Characteristics of a Plan for Growth

1. Simple
2. Sensible
3. Sequential
4. Sacrificial
5. Sustainable

The 4Es Framework

ENGAGE: the traction for growth
EVANGELIZE: the pipeline for growth
ESTABLISH: the solidifier for growth
EQUIP: the engine for growth

Stage	Engage	Evangelize	Establish	Equip
Gospel Ministry Activity				

2. You need to implement a plan for growth

The 3Ms of Church Planting Growth

1. Motivation
2. Momentum
3. Multiplication

Discussion

How could you retain motivation?

How could you build momentum?

How could you achieve multiplication?

The Six Levels of Delegation

1. Do as I say
2. Look into this and get back to me
3. Give me your advice and I'll decide
4. Explore, decide and check with me
5. Explore and decide within clearly articulated limits
6. Take care of it for me

Eradicate Momentum Killers

Discussion: what are the likely momentum killers?

Six Levels of Integration

1. Community
2. Contacts
3. Congregation
4. Consumer
5. Contributor
6. Core

3. You need to evaluate your plan for growth

1. The Success model
2. The Faithful model
3. The Fruitful model

Three Critical Factors for Evaluation

1. Team
2. Targets
3. Time

Appendices

Tim Keller: Churches that Grow¹

1. We need to run churches that confront societal idolatry

Practically

- Sing!
- Give people tools to think about idolatry critically and analytically
- Encourage it to become the language of accountability in personal discipleship

What are you doing to help your church family deal with the idolatry with which we struggle?

2. We need to run churches that pursue compelling gospel communication

Practically

- Evangelistic preaching and preaching that's always evangelistic
- Evangelism training

What are you doing to help your church family communicate the gospel?

3. We need to run churches that implement lay ministry training

According to Tim Keller, Christians need to be equipped in the following ways

1. To be a verbal witness to the gospel in their web of relationships
2. To love their neighbours and do justice within their neighbourhoods and city
3. To integrate their faith with their work in order to engage culture with their vocations

Practically

- What are you doing to help them live for Christ in their workplace?

4. We need to run churches that develop rich gospel community

Practically

- What are you doing to foster congregational relationships

5. We need to run churches that embrace interested unbelievers

6. We need to run churches that emphasize evangelistic praying

Practically

- What are you doing to encourage evangelistic praying in your congregation?

¹ Adapted from Tim Keller, Center Church p274 Six Marks of a Missional Church