

MISSIONAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHURCH

PARADIGM SHIFTS

FROM:

Building Walls
Measuring attendance
Encouraging the saints to attend the Service
“Serve Us”
Duplication of human services & ministries
Fellowship
Condemning the city
Being a minister in the congregation
Teacher
Control

TO:

Building Bridges
Measuring impact
Equipping the saints for works of service
SERVICE (Serve Others)
Partnering w/ existing services & ministries
Functional unity
Blessing the city and praying for it
Being a minister in the community
Learner
Shared Leadership/empowerment

QUIZ: MISSION OR MAINTAINANCE?

Check the following statements that are true for your church to see if your church has a missions or a maintenance mentality.

- ___ 1. Our buildings are very important to us. We maintain them well and use them often.
- ___ 2. Our staff reports on the number of pastoral visits they make.
- ___ 3. We are always offering new opportunities for participation in ministries.
- ___ 4. We get people involved in disciple-making and small groups.
- ___ 5. We work to fill every program position in our organization.
- ___ 6. Our church helps members find places to use their gifts inside and outside the church.
- ___ 7. We have witnessed a number of baptisms in recent months—children and adults.
- ___ 8. The leaders in our church work hard to make the church a stable, unchanging anchor.
- ___ 9. Our church has a great fellowship, loving one another and taking care of each other.
- ___ 10. Our church looks for ways to meet needs of people in our community and in the world.

Source: *Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60: Being Church for All Generations* by Edward Hammett with James Pierce. (Chalice Press, 2007)

WHY ISN'T YOUR CHURCH GROWING?

Identify the barriers that may be keeping your congregation from reaching the younger generation, growing an/or becoming a missional congregation. Check all that apply.

Prejudice—against other racial/ethnic groups, old/young, secular adults with a secular life style, rich/poor, or anyone who is “not like us”.

Not knowing how to grow.

Wanting things to stay the same (remain stable, unchanging).

Fear of success and how to assimilate new members and minister to them.

Lack of a vision or a plan.

Lack of member involvement to work on a plan.

Inadequate resources.

No clear understanding of need for change.

Satisfaction with the status quo.

Lack of a spiritual foundation for members.

Fear of reaching too many “needy” people.

Believing change requires too much time, energy, and other resources.

Fear of losing some current members because of change.

Being comfortable with things the way they are.

Lack of agreement about a new direction or vision.

Fear of losing the close family feel and good relationships in church as it now is.

Discouragement because of previous, disappointing attempts to change or grow.

Resistance to learning a new language—communicating the gospel with a new generation.

Lack of clearly defined goals.

No clear mission statement.

Not able to measure return on investment. Is it captured in member data or faith stories?

Not understanding the postmodern culture.

ANSWER KEY (to quiz on other side):

1,2,5,8,9 are maintenance statements while 3,4,6,7,10 are mission statements.