

What Makes Churches Grow? RESULTS FROM CHURCH SURVEYS

This information is compiled from the results of a number of surveys carried out among many kinds of churches in a variety of nations and cultures. The main points were surprisingly similar in every situation.

What makes people come to a Church and then stay to become faithful committed workers and members?

1) The Bottom Line is Prayer

Vigorous, Spirit lead, persistent, believing prayer, especially by Leaders coming together, is the major common denominator in every case surveyed.

2) How do people now established in the Church, first come into contact with it?

About 1-3% come from advertising, distribution of flyers and media publicity.

About 1% come through attending special healing and evangelistic meetings.

About 1% come through watching T.V. programs of the Church.

About 87% come because someone spoke to them personally, made a friendship and then brought them to a Home Group or a Sunday Church meeting.

3) What then made them decide to become part of that particular Church

The "Shop Window" which draws most people is the Sunday Morning meeting. Most people decide by what they find there, very often on their first visit.

Five things stand out but there are about 14 factors in American Churches that make people decide. These are roughly in order of importance.

1. **A sense of God's manifest presence.**
2. **Attractive music and extravagant praise and worship in which it is easy to participate.**
3. **A warm welcoming atmosphere where the visitor is genuinely noticed,**

welcomed and made to feel wanted and important.

4. **A visible, easily identified “Pastor”** or Head of the House who has an attractive warm, welcoming personality and charisma. He must be a person which people feel - “I want to become like him” “ I want what he has”.
5. **The Ministry of the Word is a very important factor with many.** It must be life giving, inspiring, understandable, just the right length and able to feed a large cross section of the needs of people attending.
6. Powerful, God filled, non-religious unhurried occasions to Break Bread or take Communion on a regular basis with appropriate teaching and leadership.
7. Meetings of about the right length, usually not more than two hours.
8. It must be a place and occasion where the Power of the Lord is present to meet spiritual, physical and emotional needs so that people are supernaturally changed by the power of God right then and there. There should be effective, compassionate after-meeting counseling and prayer offered at every meeting.
9. An excellent Youth Ministry which draws the young people to God and also pleases concerned parents.
10. Good Children’s ministry that the children love to come to and concerned parents feel happy about.
11. Good nursing mother, cry room and baby facilities.
12. A Building which is easy to find, attractive, pleasant but not ostentatious with good acoustics, a good sound system and with silent and efficient air conditioning.
13. Sufficient seating for everybody to be easily and comfortably accommodated.
14. Adequate, convenient car parking facilities.

4) How are the people then integrated into the Church, brought to maturity and turned into faithful committed workers.

They are best pastored and disciplined in a small group setting as well as taught through special training sessions apart from Sunday morning meetings.