

EXPANDING WAVE

A M I S S I O N A L R E S O U R C E

THE CONTAGIOUS CHURCH

In an article entitled, "Back to Basics" (*Net Results*, September/October 2007) Bill Easum stated the following:

- The cost per baptism in India is \$9800/person, the cost per baptism in the United States is \$1,550,000 per person
- More money is spent on annual church and agency audits (\$810 million) than on all our ministry and mission workers in the non-Christian world
- The average church in the U.S. in 2007 didn't record one adult baptism
- 95% of all church budgets in the U.S. are spent on their own comforts and programs
- Less than 1% is spent on evangelism



Ouch! That hurts! Or at least should. He points out that a primary reason for this is that local churches have forgotten why they exist: EVANGELISM. *"Evangelism is the rock bottom reason the church exists on earth. It is the number one responsibility placed on each Christian by our Lord."* And such is not the sole domain of existing churches—new churches can quickly lose their evangelistic fervor. *"Not all new churches are evangelistic. Some that are lose this dimension within six months as the organization takes over"* (**Church Planting**, Stuart Murray). We have a challenge before us.

where does
evangelism rank in
your church?

Bill Curry (former offensive center for the Green Bay Packers, Head coach of the University of Alabama and Georgia Tech) is a College football analysis for ESPN. He was being interviewed on the "Mike & Mike" Sports Talk show (12.12.07). When asked what coaches might say to their teams before a big game, he said, *"Teams don't win games on pep talks. They win games with proper preparation and execution."* This being said, I want to share six things you might do to prepare your church for evangelism. They are taken from Mark Mittelberg's book **Becoming a Contagious Church**. The execution will be left to you.

1. **Live an evangelistic life.** This has to do with the Pastor's HEART. Thom Rainer says, "53% of evangelistic pastors have made no evangelistic effort the last six months." A church becomes evangelistic as the leader becomes personally evangelistic.
2. **Instill evangelistic values.** This is developing the right kind of HEREDITY or DNA into your church. When God grabs your heart it spills on to others
3. **Empower a leader.** Find someone who can lead this focus. You need a HERO to point your people toward. The pastor must model it, but this doesn't mean you are the coordinator of the church's efforts.
4. **Train the church.** This is giving them the HELPS necessary to be effective. Un-preparedness results in fear. Everyone should be trained to share their faith.
5. **Mobilize the team.** These are the folks who plan evangelistically targeted events or ensure that every ministry as an evangelistic flavor. Those on this team HONE the church's evangelistic fervor.

Evangelism
& Church Growth
THE WESLEYAN CHURCH



6. ***Unleash the church.*** This is removing HINDRANCES from people in evangelism. It is giving them permission to be used by God to connect those disconnected to God.

Every church can, and should, be an evangelistic church. I might suggest that each church make it a goal to win 10% to Christ each year of their average Sunday AM worship attendance. How might the environment in your church, judicatory or denomination change if 10% of people were coming to Christ? Might be fun to find out!

Upcoming Events: 2008

January 22-25 ___ Church Planter Assessment Center - Indianapolis, IN
January 28 ___ Church Growth & Multiplication - Shenandoah District
January 28-29 ___ Immigration Task Force - Indianapolis, IN
February 7 ___ Church Growth & Multiplication - North Michigan District
February 7-8 ___ CP Pre-Assessment - Asbury Seminary
February 18-19 ___ WNAM Board Meeting - Indianapolis, IN

Resources:

Becoming a Contagious Church, Mark Mittelberg
Five Things Anyone Can Do To Introduce Someone to Jesus, Chris Conrad
Worship Evangelism, Sally Morgenthaler
Becoming a Contagious Christian, Bill Hybels & Mark Mittelberg
Effective Evangelistic Churches, Thom Rainer
Living a Life on Loan, Rick Rusaw & Eric Swanson
Spring Life, www.wesleyan.org/springlife

"...local congregations must return to the basics of the Christian faith, namely the Great Commandment and the Great Commission."

Bill Easum

E&CG Mission Statement:

The E&CG Department exists to equip and empower The Wesleyan Church to become a missional movement through multiplying believers, leaders and churches.

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