

R.E.A.C.H.

*A BIBLICAL, PRAYER, AND OPEN SMALL-GROUP-BASED
CHURCH-GROWTH STRATEGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY!*

R. _____
E. _____
A. _____
C. _____
H. _____

I. THREE STREAMS OF INFLUENCE

A. BIBLICAL MANDATES

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Acts 1:8
- Matthew 16:18
- The church must understand the difference between _____
and _____.
- Acts 2:42-47
- John 15:5, 7

B. CONTEXTUAL NEEDS

C. RESEARCHED FACTS

(Statistics from Thom Rainer, Mark Terry, Aubrey Malphurs, Howard Tryon,
George Barna, Ed Stetzer, and denominational sources)

II. THE _____ OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH

As we look at researched facts, we begin to see the state of the American church – its needs and its problems.

- It takes _____ people to reach _____ person for Christ.
- Only _____% of Americans will attend _____ on a given weekend.
- Over _____% of our churches are _____.
- Not a single _____ in the U.S. reported more people attending church now than ten years ago.
- There are _____ million _____ people in the United States.
- Over _____ million of the unchurched would come to faith in Jesus Christ if only someone would _____ them how.
- Another _____ million are very _____ to coming to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Only _____% of the unchurched would be considered hostile or antagonistic toward the church.
- Yet over _____% of our members will _____ their _____ in their lifetimes.
- Only 21% of our active members will invite _____ to church.
- Only 2% of our active members will invite a _____ person to church in a year.

III. THE SOLUTION

A. _____

- More than _____% of the unchurched said they would _____ to church if someone sincerely invited them.
- In fact, 86% of people attracted to church come because of _____ with a church member.
- Yet more than _____% of the unchurched said they had never been _____ to church.

B. _____

- More than _____% of Americans say they believe in _____.

- More than _____% of Americans say they pray _____.

C. _____ **SUNDAY SCHOOLS**

- We need both _____ and _____ small groups.
- It is the _____ organization and _____ force.
- It is _____. (Acts 2:42-47)
 - ▶ Our Worship (Public and Private)
 - ▶ Our Witness (Personal and Missions)
 - ▶ Our Warfare (Prayer)
 - ▶ Our Walk (Discipleship)
 - ▶ Our Work (Ministry)
 - ▶ Our Welcome (Fellowship and Assimilation)
- It studies the _____.
- _____ is responsible for everyone.
- Assimilation Power

IV. THE _____ **DESCRIPTION**

“R.E.A.C.H. is a practical, church growth strategy that delegates church-wide prayer and outreach responsibilities to the open small group ministry (often Sunday school), involves every active member, and allows for flexibility in scheduling.” (John H. Ewart, R.E.A.C.H.)

V. COMPONENTS OF A GROWTH HEARTSET

A. THE PRINCIPLES OF _____ (Acts 2:42-47)

B. THE POWER OF _____

- How can we lead people to “want to?”
- James 4:2
- Matthew 9:37-38
- Colossians 4:2-6
- Ephesians 6:18-20
- Romans 10:1

C. THE PREPARATION OF _____

- God’s people need _____, _____, and _____.
- Every strategy needs practical _____.
- Be your workers’ greatest cheerleader.

D. THE PURSUIT OF _____

- Definition: *“A prospect is any unsaved or unchurched person within the reach of your church for whom you have personal contact information.”* (John H. Ewart)
- _____ enrollment policy
- Discovery methods and events: Where do we find prospects for our church?
 - ▶ Welcome or visitors cards
 - ▶ “I know a prospect” forms
 - ▶ New member networks
 - ▶ Intentional discovery events
 - ▶ Conserving the results of “normal” events
 - ▶ Surveys
- The Intentionality of Availability Principle:

“The church must be focused, intentional coordinated, and aggressive in obtaining and making available, personal contact information – and therefore access – to new prospects.”

E. THE PICTURE OF _____

- **An overview of the R.E.A.C.H. Strategy:**
 - ▶ Three general officers:
 - R.E.A.C.H. administrator
 - R.E.A.C.H. prayer director
 - R.E.A.C.H. outreach director
 - Four job responsibilities - _____, _____, _____, _____.
 - ▶ Class structures
 - ▶ A simplified records system

- ▶ Two primary components:
 - The _____ Component
 - The _____ (Pursuit) Component

- **The Prayer Component:**

- ▶ R.E.A.C.H. prayer director: Recruit, train, _____, _____, and _____.
- ▶ Class prayer leader (individual, rotating team)
 - 5 phone calls per week (1 active, 2 inactive, 2 prospects)
 - Prepared introduction
- ▶ Sunday mornings
- ▶ Age group variations
- ▶ Corporate prayer ministry
- ▶ Goal: Discipling the “90-percenters.”

- **The Pursuit Component:**

- ▶ R.E.A.C.H. administrator
- ▶ R.E.A.C.H. outreach director – (recruit, train, hold accountable, and encourage)
- ▶ Class outreach leader
- ▶ Contact assignment sheets and reports
 - Prospects:
 - Inactive members:
- ▶ *R – E – A – C* teams – every active member!
 - *R – E – A – C* weeks:
 - *H* week:
 - REACH-Out rallies:
- ▶ Age-division variations: R.E.A.C.H. bags:
- ▶ Family discipleship experiences

- ▶ Raising a generation of evangelists and prayer warriors
- ▶ Goal: Discipling the “90-percenters.”

- **Expectations:**

1. Every prospective and current member of an open small group should become an active church member.
2. Every active church member should be an active member of a Sunday School class.
3. Every active member should pray for the community and the church
4. As an active Sunday School member, you should participate on one of the R – E – A - C outreach teams one week each month.
5. Outreach team members shall receive all the materials they need on Sunday morning.
6. Sunday School members have seven days to make contact according to their most effective methodology.
7. Return a report the following Sunday.
8. Four times each year Sunday School members should participate in an all church outreach during H week.
9. Encourage people to participate in personal evangelism training.

F. THE PROMISE OF _____ :

- God blesses intentionality.
- Corinthians 10:31

VI. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS:

A. WHOLE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

- General officers
- Class leaders
- Training
- Class structures
- All age divisions
- Begin _____ weeks before kick-off

B. STAGGERED — PRAYER COMPONENT FIRST

- Prayer Director
- Class leaders
- Training
- Class structures
- All age divisions
- Begin _____ weeks before kick-off

"I have never seen a church who implemented it by the book that didn't see growth." (John Ewart)

C. GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

1. The church board and body elects to adopt the R.E.A.C.H. strategy.
2. The appropriate leadership recruits and trains the three general R.E.A.C.H. Officers.
3. Classes and/or other leadership recruit class prayer and outreach leaders.
4. Training is held for class leaders. Additional training will be needed on a Quarterly basis.
5. A master prospect file is created.
6. Classes organize 100% of their active membership into *R – E – A – C* teams.
7. Weekly assignments of prospects are made by the R.E.A.C.H. general officers.
8. Weekly assignments of inactive members are made by the class outreach Leaders.
9. Class prayer leaders make at least five prayer phone calls each week. These become the basis for class and congregational prayer opportunities.
10. Every fifth Sunday is *H* week and an all church outreach event (REACH Rally) is planned.
11. Personal evangelism training is conducted via discipleship training and/or pulpit ministry

Assemble the people--men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns--so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

Deuteronomy 31:12-13