



### **Church Health Matters**

Tim Sims / Sarie King

3:15pm - 4:15pm, Tuesday 28 October 2014







- 1. It is possible for us to serve God more effectively today and in the days ahead
- 2. That **through the word,** through **prayer and** through **mutual discussion** and encouragement we will come to see that end more clearly
- 3. More effective service **will require that we do some things differently** and this will require courage, grace and discipline and further dependence on the word, prayer and service to one another ...

Australia		USA
Australia		037

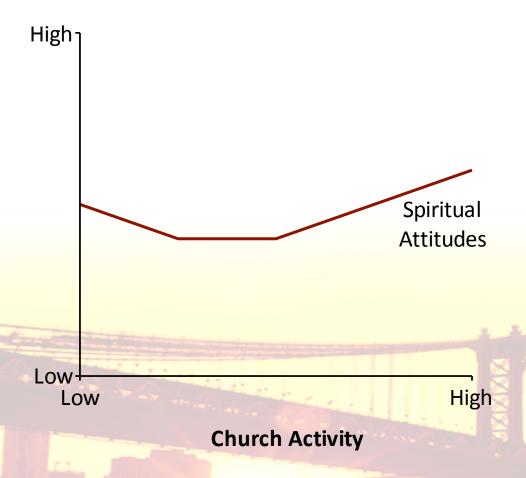
Base Data 1	NCLS 1990 – 2011
Expert Interviews	70 +
Books	120 +
Workshops	50 +
Partnership	10 +

Desk top only	
Books, Articles, Data Websites 90+	



### **Fruitless Activity**

#### **Spiritual Growth**



"Nearly one out of every four people at Willow Creek were stalled in their spiritual growth or dissatisfied with the church – many were considering leaving. When I first heard these results the pain of knowing was almost unbearable ..."

Bill Hybels, 2007



### **Observations I**

#### **Thesis**

Attendance is in sharp decline

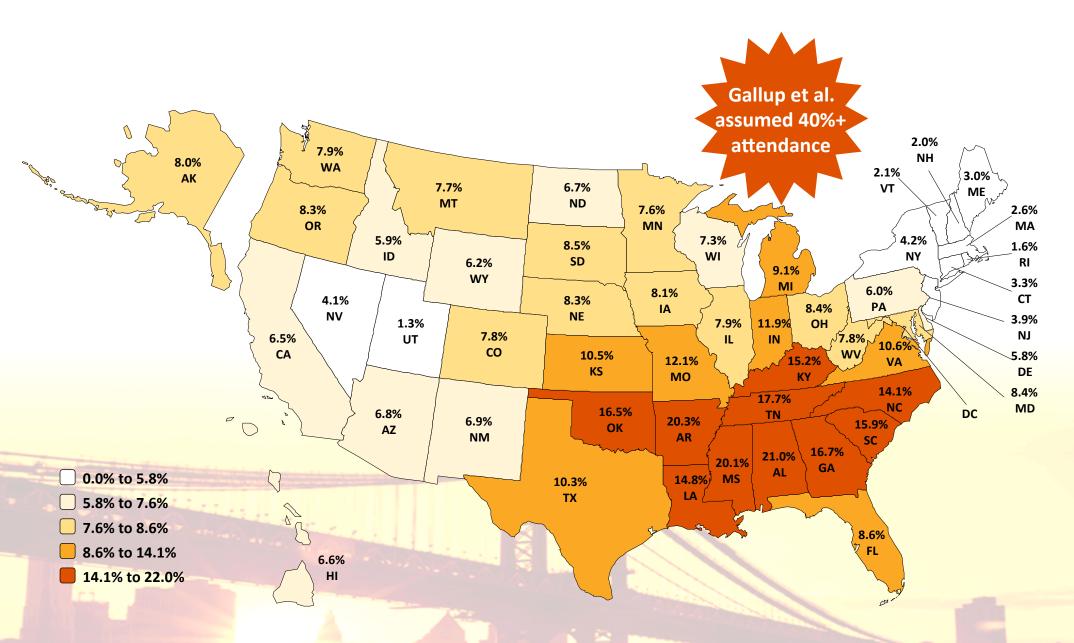
Secular forces are powerful but the problem is church practice

There are effective remedies available under God ...

There is a need for urgent coordinated action is now required



### **Church Attendance 2007**

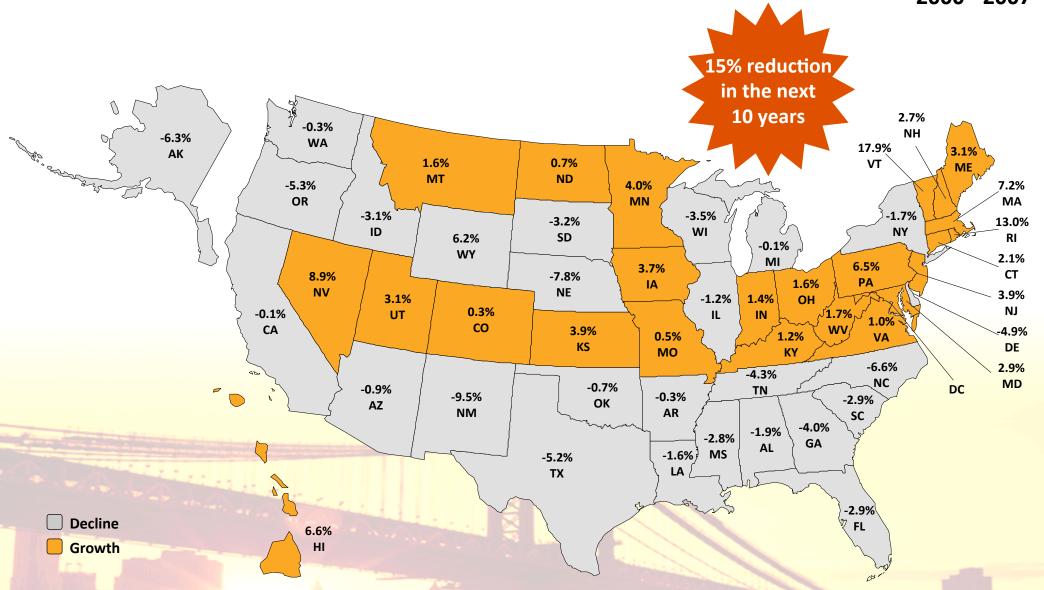


Source: Olson: The American Church In Crisis



### **Attendance Change**

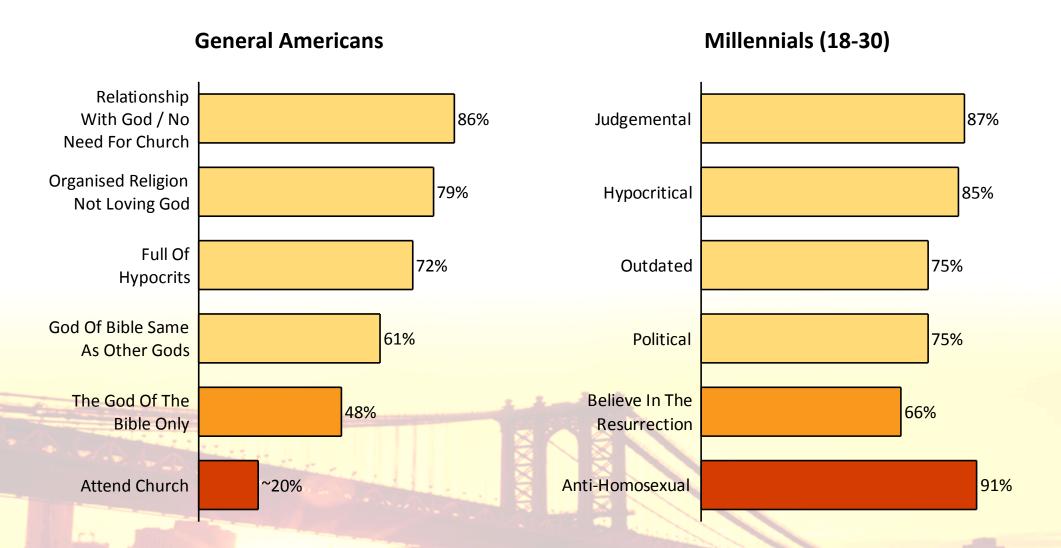
2000 - 2007



15% reduction in the next 10 years



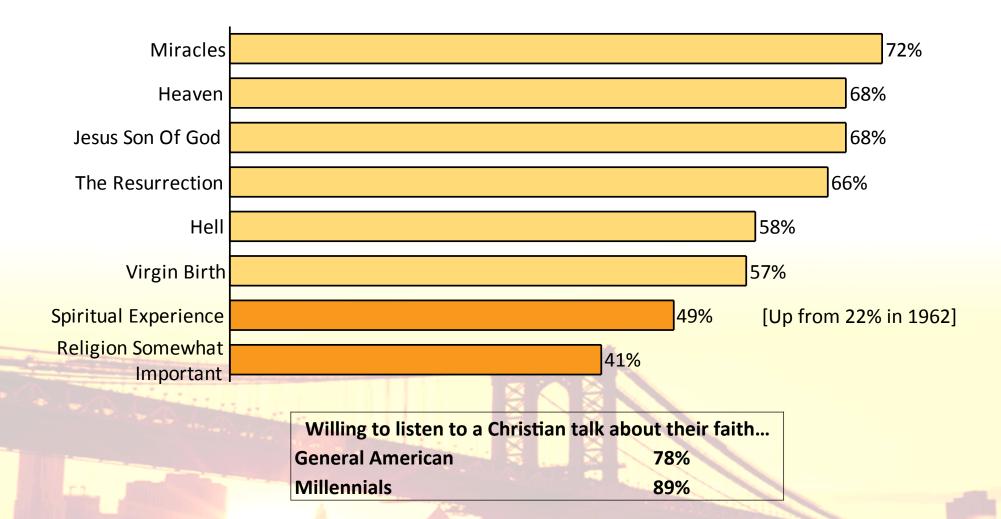
### **Attitudes To Church**



Source: LifeWay Research, Barna, Olson



### **Beliefs**

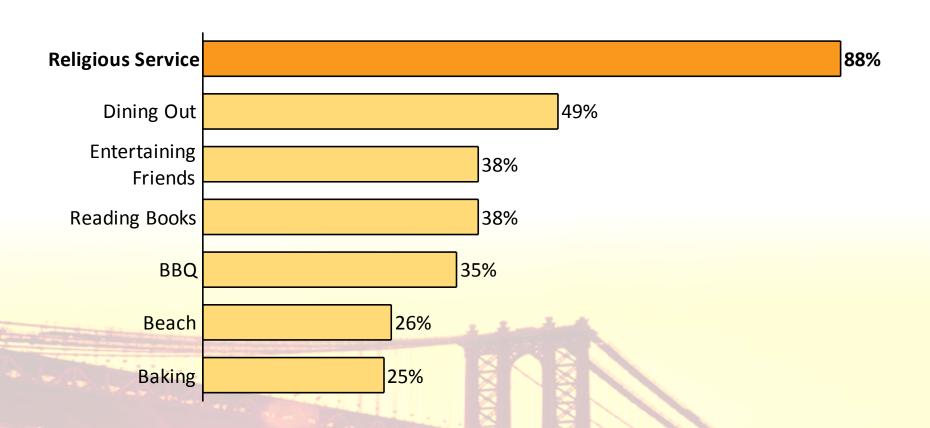


Source: Harris Poll 8



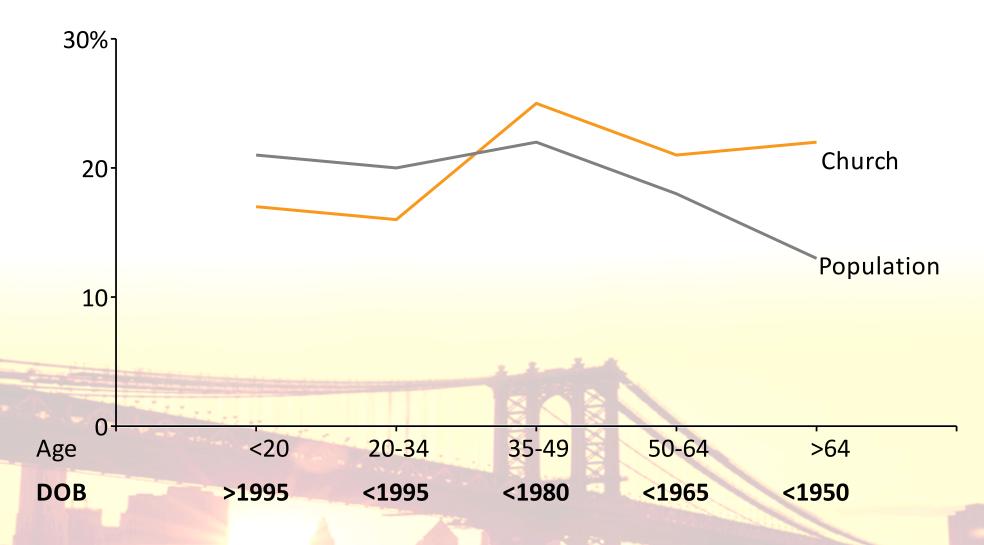
## **Engagement**

#### In The Last Year





## **Age Profile**

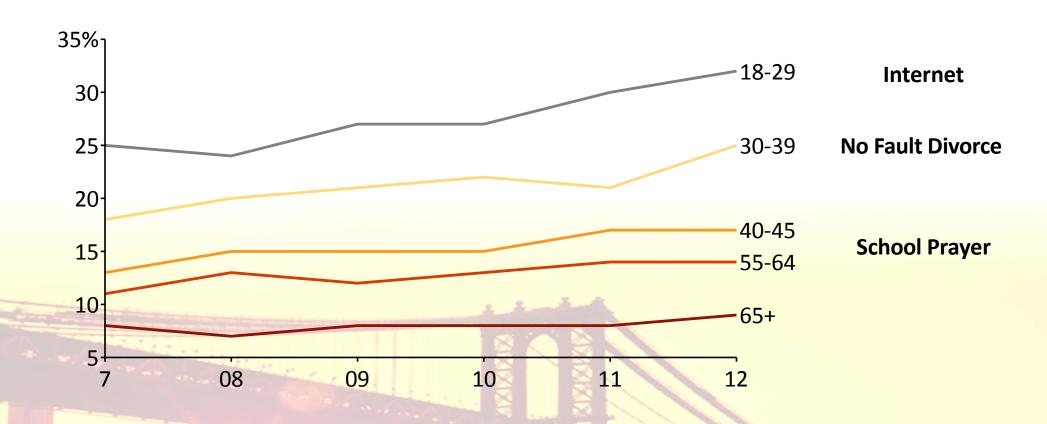


Source: Olson, Barna 10



# **Hollowing Out**

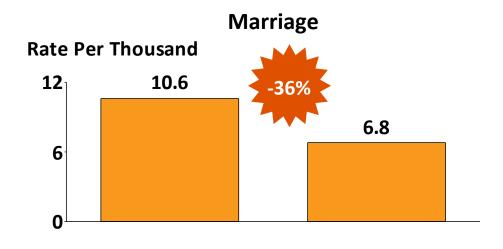
#### **No Affiliation**

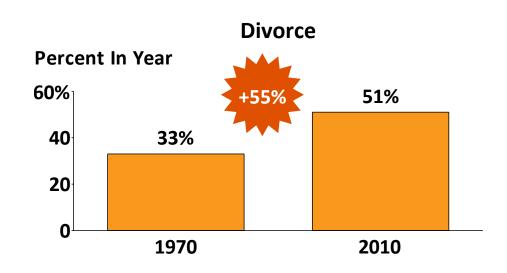


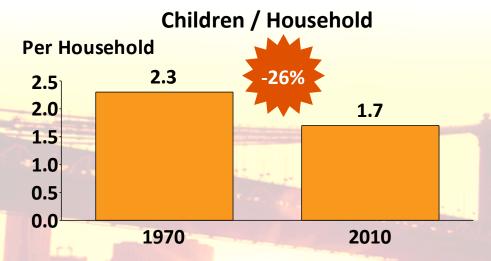
Source: US Census Data 11

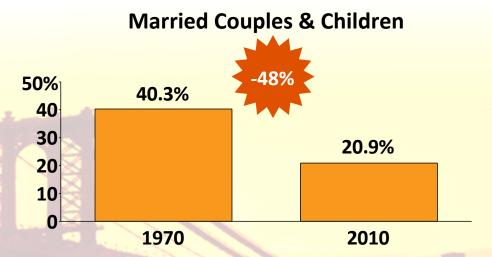


## **Family Breakdown**









Source: US Census Data 12



## **Father / Family Impact**

#### In Becoming A Regular Worshipper...

Church Attendance Of:		Sunday School Attendance Of:		
	Regular	Irregular		
Father Only	65%+	50%+	<b>Father Only</b>	55%
Mother Only	5%	30%	Mother Only	15%
			Both	72%
			Neither	6%

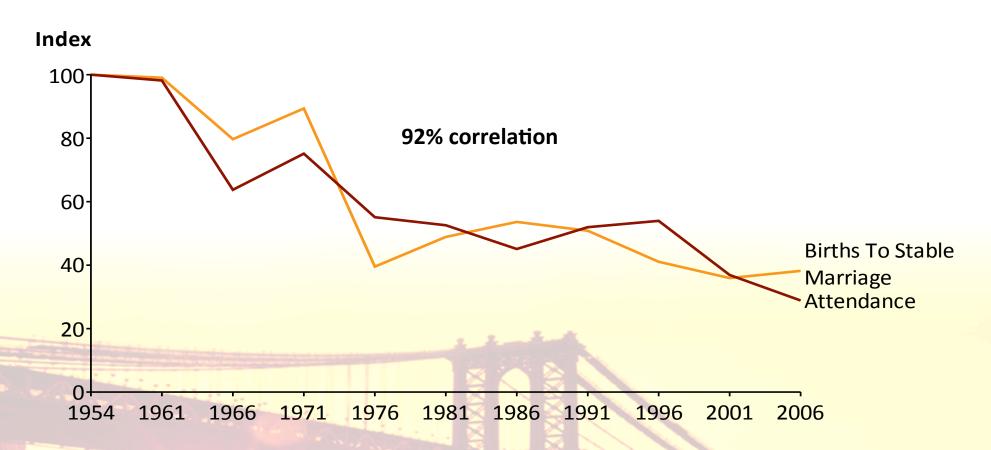
#### First Conversion ...

Household Impact					
Child	3.5%				
Mother	17%				
Father	93%				



### **Forensic Evidence**

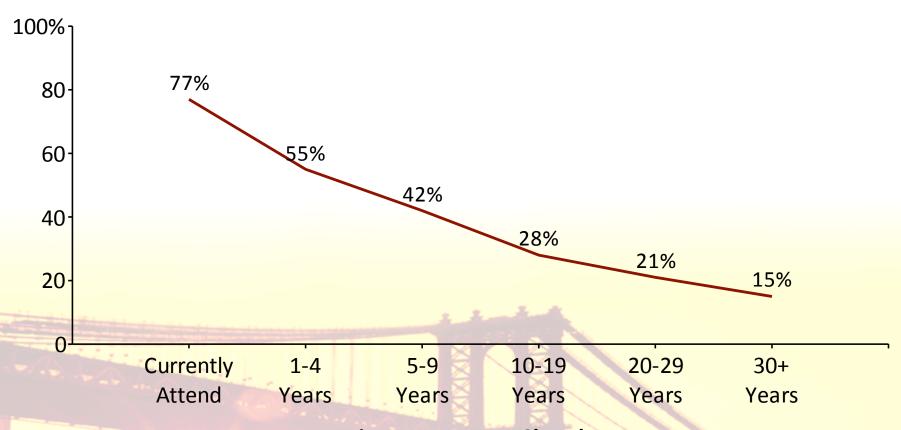
#### **Australian Example**





### **Alienation**

#### **Australian Data: Recognisable Christian Belief**

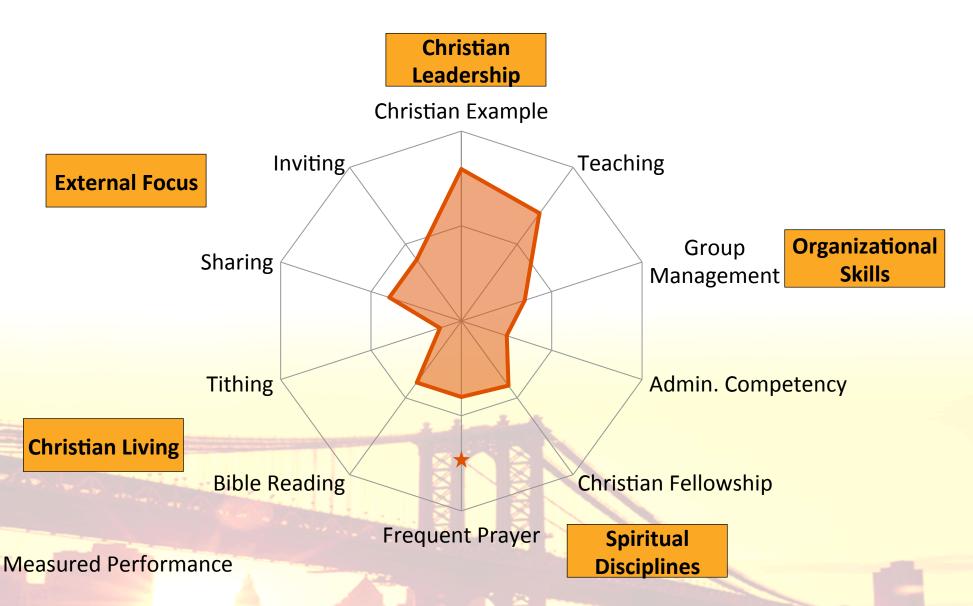


**Time Away From Church** 

Source: ACS98 15



### **Typical Profile**





### **Potential Constraints**

#### **Australian Data**

#### Impact out of 100%

Percent Of Variance Explained	Personal Growth	Sense of Belonging	Sharing Faith	Community Involvement	Size Growth
Community					
Local Context Urban / Rural	2.0%	4.0%	1.0%	9.0%	8.0%
Ethnicity	3.0%	1.0%	2.0%	(5.0)%	1.0%
Population Growth	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	(1.0)%	4.0%
Youth Mix	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%	(8.0%)	3.0%
Education	(9.0)%	(5.0)%	(5.0)%	9.0%	(1.0)%
Internal Factors	68%	56%	68%	36%	24%



### **Further Possible 'Constraints'**

**Australian Data** 

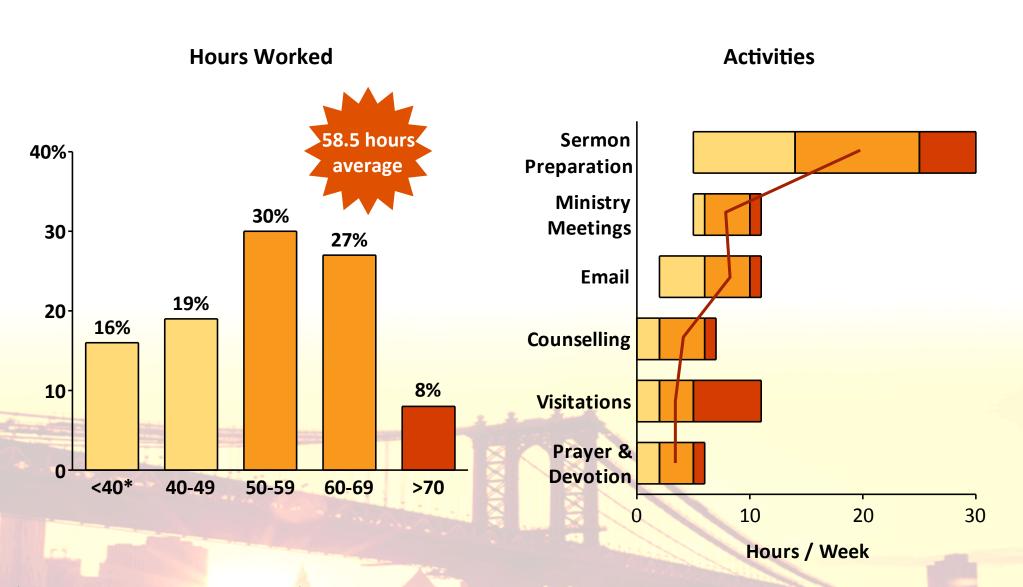
#### Impact out of 100%

Percent Of Variance Explained	Personal Growth	Sense of Belonging	Sharing Faith	Community Involvement	Size Growth	
Leader						
Age	(0.6)%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	(0.8)%	
Ministry Years	(0.6)%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	(1.3)%	
Congregation Years	0.1%	(0.8)%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	
Staffing						
High Ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	(0.7)%	
Cross Cong.	(1.4)%	0.4%	(0.7)%	0.0%	(0.6)%	
Women Ministers	1.6%	0.5%	1.1%	0.2%	0.2%	
	ere en		1			
Internal Factors	68.0%	56.0%	68.0%	36.0%	24.0%	



## **Diary Challenge**

#### "90% of pastors feel inadequately trained"



<sup>\*</sup> Mostly multi-job, part time & volunteer; excluded from average, Barna Source: LifeWay Research





Stress		Longevity			
Report stress / anxiety	75%	Leave within 5 years	50%		
Fighting depression	70%	Survive till retirement	10%		
No close friend	70%				
Unable to meet demands	50%	New churches each year	4,000		
Would leave if they could	50%	Churches closed each year	7,000		
		Pastors retiring per month	1,700		

"Members of the clergy now suffer from obesity, hypertension and depression at higher rates than most Americans. In the last decade, their use of anti-depressants has risen, while their life expectancy has fallen ..."

New York Times, 2010



### **Observations II**

#### **Thesis**

Attendance is in sharp decline ...

Secular forces are powerful but the problem is church practice ...

There are effective remedies available under God

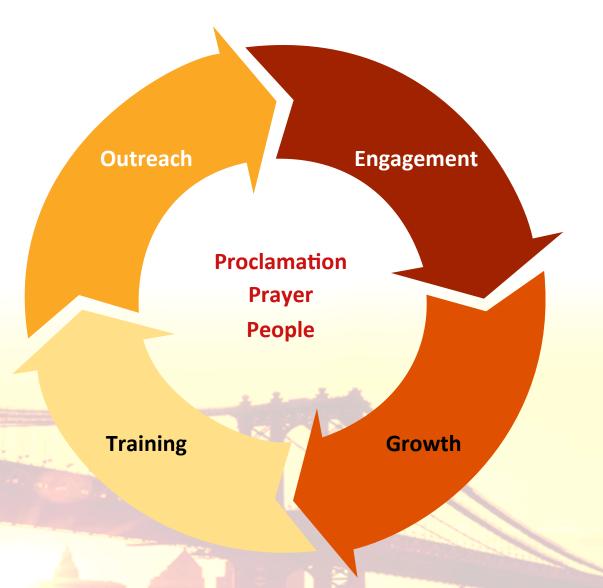
There is a need for urgent coordinated action is now required



### The Task

### **Disciple Making Disciples**

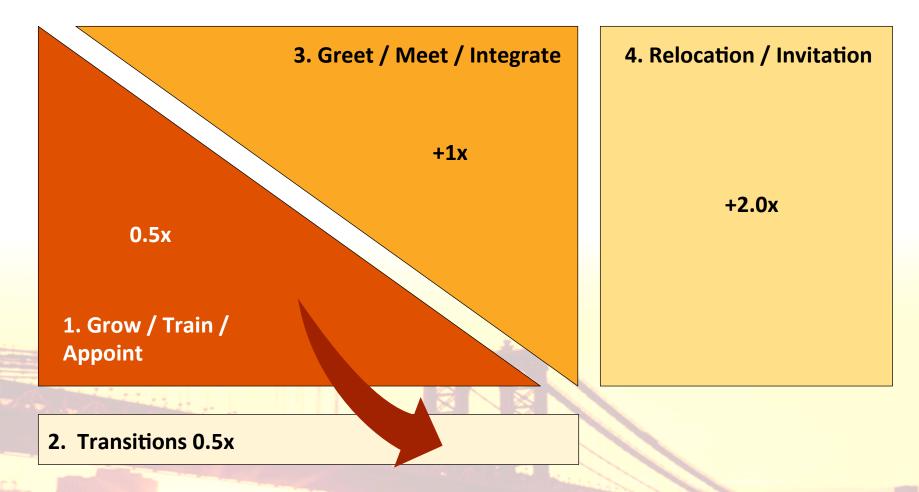
Matt 28:19-20





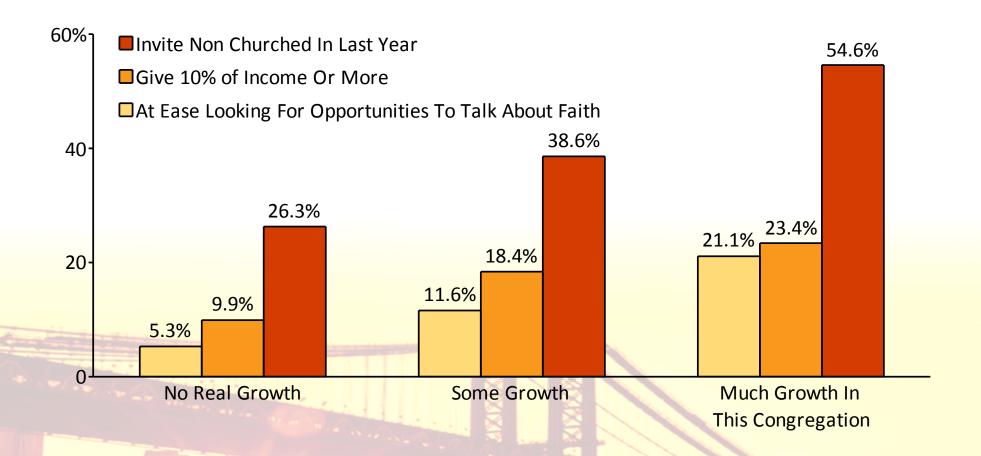
## **Building Blocks**

"4 x 4 x 4"





## 1. Grow / Train / Appoint

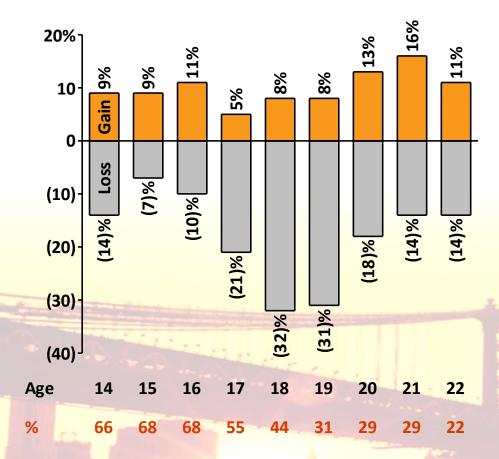


Source: NCLS06, Anglicans only

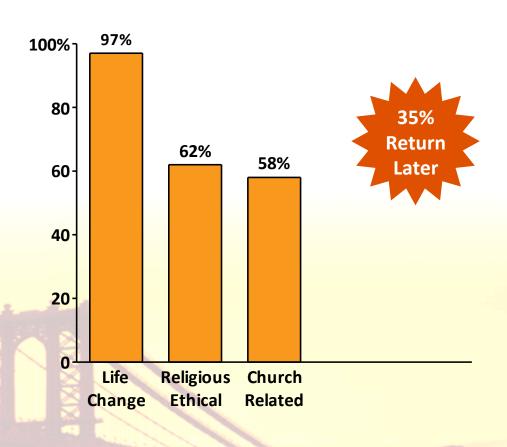


### 2. Youth Transition

#### **Defending The Youth (14-22)**



#### **Key Change Drivers**

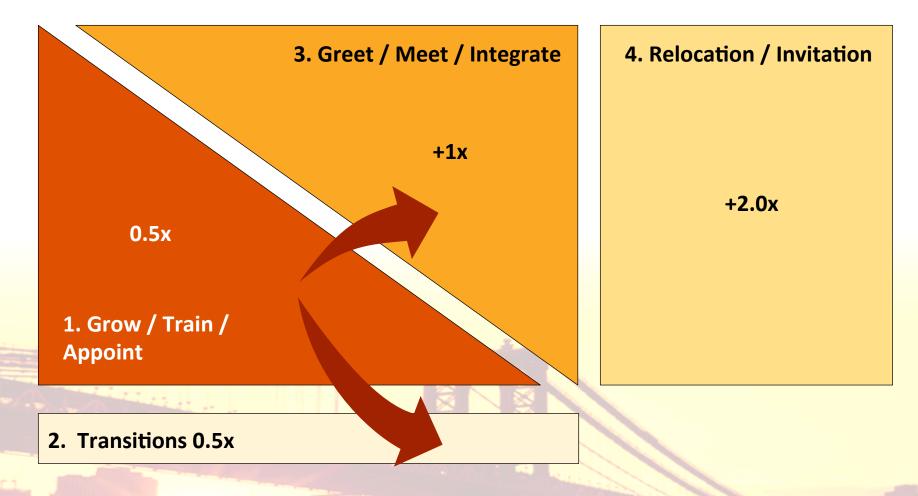


Source: Christianity Today, Ed Setzer 25



# **Building Blocks**

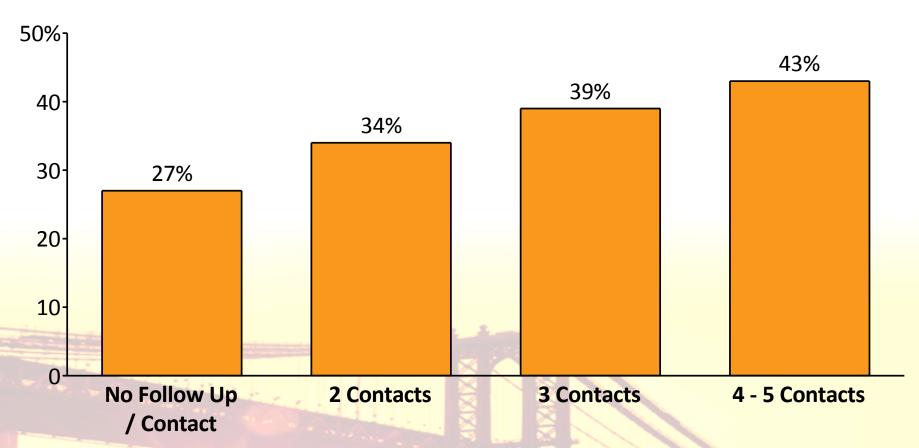
"4 x 4 x 4"





## 3. Meet / Greet / Integrate

#### **Congregational Growth**



Source: Faith Communities Today



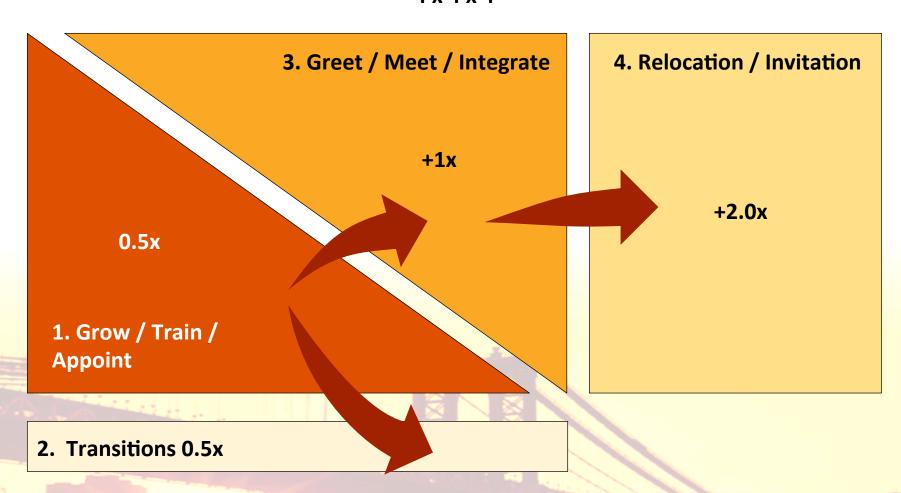
# **A Coordinated Response**

	Best Practice		Norm			
	Stages / Steps	None	Acknowledge	Engage	Triage	Own
Before the	Labels					
service First 10	Greeters		Ť.			
minutes	Ushers		<b>@</b>			
In the pew	Visitor Card		<u>†</u>			
Last 10	Pathway			<b>@</b>		
minutes	Pew Missionaries			@	@	@
A. The state of	Staff Call	2 2-	Ţ.			=[
After church Next 36 hours	Attendee Invitation					
	Discipling Relationship / Group	N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N	XXXXXX			<b>@</b>



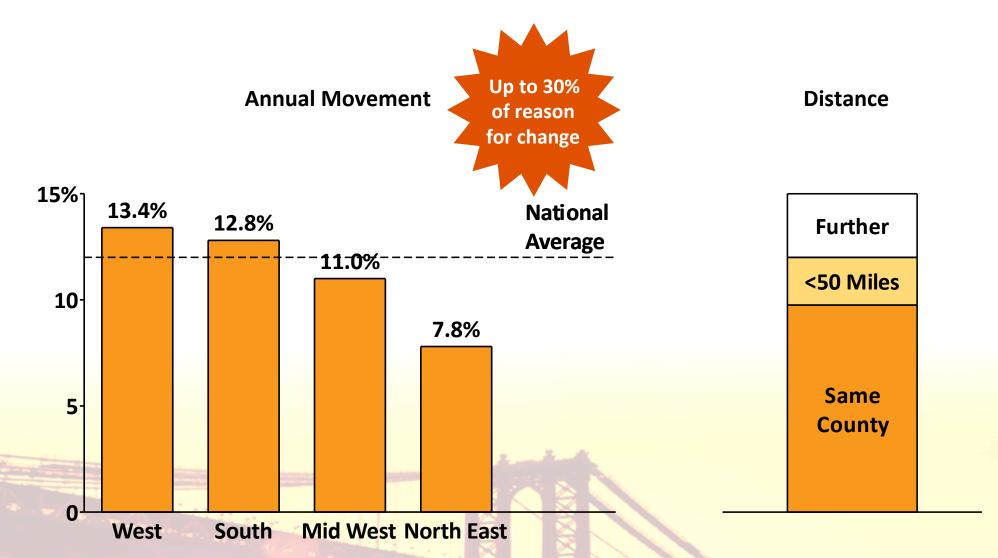
## **Building Blocks**

"4 x 4 x 4"





### Churn

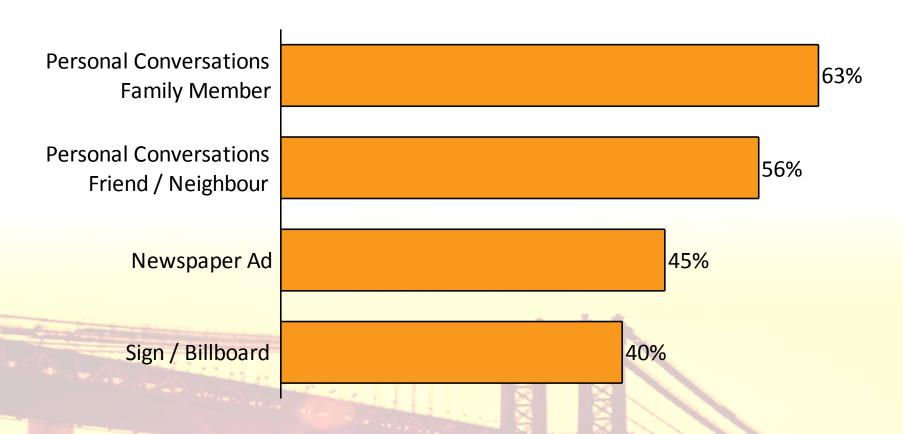


Source: US Census Data



# 4. Relocation / Invitation

#### Willing To Receive Information About A Local Congregation ...

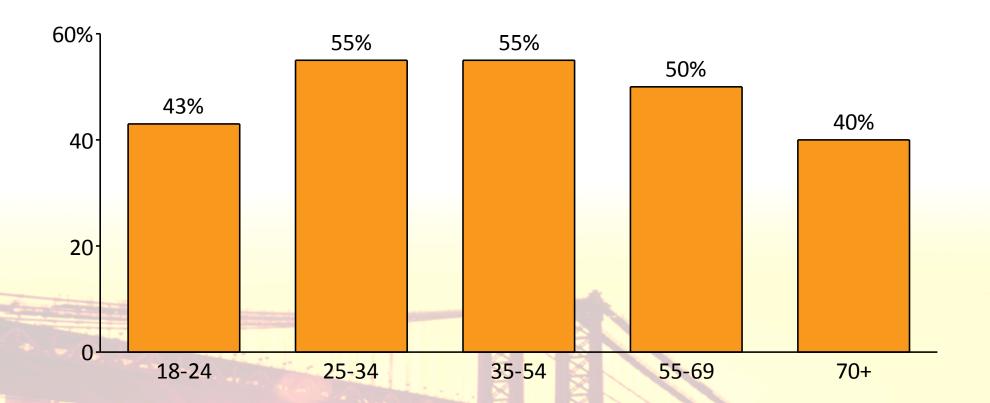


Source: LifeWay Research 31



# 4. Relocation / Invitation

#### **Openness To Door-To-Door Church Invitation**



Source: Centre for Mission Research, 2007



## **Takeaways**

#### **Recommit to Personal Growth**

Start with the diary

Grow disciples & delegate

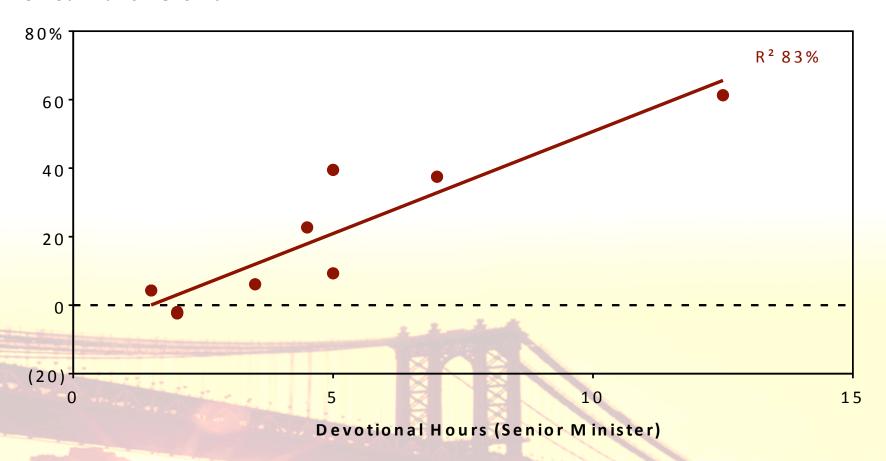
Be bold have a plan and hold people accountable

**Prayer / Devotion** 



### **Devotional Time**

#### 5 Year Parish Growth







Pastoral authority can only be attained by **the servant of Jesus who seeks no power of his own**, who himself is a brother among brothers, submitted to the authority of the Word'

Leader must continually tell his followers quite clearly of the limited nature of his task and of their own responsibility...without this he will pass over into the image of the mis-leader...he has to lead the individual into his own maturity;

In the whole of world history there is always one really significant hour - the present...if you want to find eternity you must serve the times'

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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