



Comeback Churches

What can be done to change the direction of churches that are merely existing or that are dying?

Comeback churches came in all ages and all sizes

How churches get stuck – see attachment pages 19-23

Evaluate your churches current condition.

- This might involve an outside consultant or denominational leader.
- Involve many people in the Church – Comeback leaders have recognized that the congregation has to be part of the turnaround. “Those who row the boat have little time to rock the boat”
- Churches wanting change must discuss, discuss, discuss

Comeback Leaders:

- Pray Passionately
- Distinguish between obvious symptoms and underlying problems.
- Take the initiative for change
- Challenge Excuses
- Make time to learn
- Model Evangelistic Passion
- Share the ministry
- Spend time with their leaders
- Understand that leadership is more about what you can get done through others than what you can do yourself
- Cast a clear and compelling vision
- Multiply themselves

Comeback pastors and their best leaders needed to focus their time on two groups: leaders and the lost.

Comeback churches had new or renewed pastors or staff. 40% of comeback churches changed without changing their senior pastor however the senior pastor was ‘renewed’. Comeback leaders got a new vision and clear direction at any age.

Comeback Churches:

Recognise Three Faith Factors

These three factors are always necessary to lead a comeback church:

- Renewed belief in Jesus and the mission of the church
- Renewed attitude for servant-hood, and
- More strategic prayer effort

Growing deep in love with Jesus

Growing deeply in love with the community

Growing deeply in love with the lost

Value Worship.

'Jazzing up' the worship is not the quick fix. The solution lies in seeking God's heart while creating worship that helps others connect with God.

Take Biblical Preaching Seriously

Have a Planned Process for Evangelism

Connect People To Spiritual Maturity

Motivate and Mobilize People

- Create an atmosphere of Expectation
- Create an Atmosphere of Equipping
- Create an Atmosphere of Empowerment

Often Change Their Facilities to help Facilitate Growth

Strategic Thinking vs Maintenance Thinking

Strategic

Effective

Forward Seeker

Proactive

Dynamic

Flexible

Innovative

Confronts

Coordinated

Interdependent

Maintenance

Efficient

Failure Avoider

Reactive

Static

Inflexible

Traditional

Avoids

Fragmented

Independent

Top Ten Most Common Transformations for Comeback Churches

- 1 Prayer
- 2 Children's Ministry
- 3 Evangelism
- 4 Youth Ministry
- 5 Leadership
- 6 Missions
- 7 Assimilation
- 8 Worship
- 9 Sunday School/Small Groups
- 10 Organizational Structure

Top Three Factors:

- Prayer,
- Evangelism
- Preaching

Biggest Challenges:

- Attitudes,
- Finances,
- Facilities

Summarised From:

Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson, *Comeback Churches*, B&H Books, 2007.

For more information, tools and powerpoint presentations go to
www.comebackchurches.com