

ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO GROWTH

Pastor Terry Yancey – AGK Superintendent

Note: Six contributing pastors quickly declared the favor of the Lord as *the main factor* but upon further probing they offered these *actions* that seem to be contributing to the progress of the church they lead.

1. Intentional greeting

- Greeters are trained
- People are trained for effectiveness during “meet & greet” moments of service
- Pastor stands on the sidewalk greeting people as they leave

2. Intentionally make people feel *they belong relationally* so they can really *hear the gospel*.

3. Approach every service through the eyes of the *uninitiated*.

- Assume people know little or nothing of local worship behaviors, etc.
- Explain nearly everything done and why it happens

4. Make sure the first 15 minutes are a *high quality* experience for the visitor.

- Attractive yard
- Uncluttered hallways
- Competent, friendly nursery workers
- Friendly greeters (including children serving as greeters in kids church)
- Helpful ushers
- Uplifting and energetic music, etc.
- Hope the preacher doesn’t foul up the other good efforts they already experienced

5. Corporate, vocal, Scripture directed *prayer*

- Prayer meetings at first were “by invitation only” but became open to all once established and alive.
- Sunday night passionate prayer meetings in place of traditional Sunday night preaching service
- Sunday 8:00 passionate prayer focused on ministry that day and led by pastor

6. Intentionally engaging the community *in the community* (outside the church building)

- BBQ & GO show (if it “goes” it shows: motorcycles, cars, trucks, etc.)
- Celebration of Freedom (4th of July event *for the community*)
- Providing a meal for our local school district at the beginning of the school year as an act of gratitude for what they do
- Pastor active with the local Chamber of Commerce (occasionally hosting a meeting at the church building) and serve the board in some fashion when possible
- Utilize Fine Arts presentations (puppets at local library for summer reading program, etc)

7. Worship

- Seek, pray for and expect God’s presence to literally wrap people up.
- Treat worship as “ministry to God.”
- Holy Ghost churches are the ones that grow (not out of order but sensitive to Him first while also understanding the culture.)

8. Outreach

- Consistent and need driven (Find a need in the community or a neighborhood and meet it, find a hurt and heal it.)
- Monthly food outreach (taking it to them instead of them coming to the building)
- Intentional connection with and marketing to the un-churched / de-churched

9. Strong Leadership

- Pastoral leadership (not a dictator but clear with vision and strategy)
- Board leadership (supportive of the church vision, pastor-backers, hard workers)
- Volunteers leadership (embrace the church vision and work to make it a reality)

10. Flexible congregation

- Not tradition bound
- Embrace a culture of experimentation for vision accomplishment.

11. Friendly culture among the people of the church

12. High rate of volunteers

- 60% of adults are involved in some form of ministry

13. We plan events with clear understanding of what they should accomplish. We do nothing without clearly defining what “success” looks like prior to starting our “90 day out preparation efforts.”

- Is it about worship? Fellowship of church people? Connecting people to the church?
- Is it about making people aware of the church? Salvation opportunity? Etc.

14. Cast a vision so large that it cannot be done without supernatural help.

- People want to be part of something bigger than they are.
- Help them see they are in a conflict with spiritual forces for souls in their region.

15. We constantly try to discover how to execute each ministry we do as effectively and efficiently as possible. *Nobody wants to copy sloppiness.*

- There are only a few large communities in the U.S. but thousands smaller than 5,500. Therefore it is our goal to model what a growing church can look like in a small town.

16. View the church as a hospital for sinners *rather* than a health club for saints.

- Staff, schedule, resource, function, evaluate and operate like an emergency room.
- E.R. staff has needs but they deal with that in a place or time other than the E.R so our church functions with that plan.

17. Design Sunday morning service specifically to appeal to un-churched people. Help the church people become comfortable with the knowledge they can bring their un-churched friends to service knowing they will get...

- A positive, upbeat service
- A practical, biblical, life based message
- An opportunity (clearly and persuasively presented) to become connected to Jesus
- People “up front” that are oriented to *authenticity* instead of *image*
- A sense of the presence of God

18. Plan to grow by bringing *individuals* to Christ.

- Identify, invite and greet *individuals*.
- Challenge *individuals* to follow Jesus.
- Follow up on *individuals*.
- Invite *individuals* to a “Get Acquainted Luncheon.”
- Enroll *individuals* in a “connections class.”

- Plug *individuals* into a small group that is relationship based, not Bible study based thus sharing godly life on life with an *individual*.
- Disciple *individuals*.
- Get *individuals* involved in ministry service.