

The State of the Church and Your Church: Knowing and Reaching Your Jerusalem Marshall Fant

Key passages

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Col. 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Acts 20:17-38.

- I. The priorities of the leaders within the church. (vv 17-24)
 - A. Your priorities determine the way you live. (vv 17-19)
 - B. Your priorities determine what you say. (vv 20-24)
- II. The problems facing the leaders of the church. (vv 25-31)
 - A. Problem #1: Time on earth is short. (v 25)
 - B. Problem #2: Responsibilities on earth are great. (vv 26-28)
 - C. Problem #3: Opposition will arise. (vv 29-31)
- III. The power source for leaders of the church. (vv 32-38)
 - A. God's grace empowers the church to grow. (vv 32-34)
 - B. God's grace empowers the church to give. (v 35)

Key questions

- 1. If your church closed, how long would it take your community to notice?
- 2. Why should the Lord direct someone to your church?
- 3. Are you prepared to meet the spiritual needs of those the Lord is drawing?

Key considerations

I. When they come to you

Preach:

- Preaching is what some of us do well.
- Preaching is what some of us don't do well.
 - https://gfamissions.org/pages/for-pastors/podcastdetail/1/127/

Prepare:

- Prepare your congregation to pray.
 - Seasons of prayer.
 - Ongoing prayer.

- https://gfamissions.org/pages/for-pastors/podcastdetail/1/108/
- Prepare your congregation to engage:
 - Engage personally:
 - Greeters/ushers to personally welcome guests and members before and after the service.
 - Note: You and your wife may be the best greeters after each service.
 - Connect cards for Sunday AM services.
 - How do you determine the spiritual needs of those the Lord sends to you?
 - How do you stay in touch with the current spiritual needs of those within your congregation?
 - Nurseries/Children ministries on Sundays.
 - Children/Youth ministries on Wednesdays.
 - Intro/Welcome Class: an intentional, ongoing path of assimilation and discipleship.
 - https://gfamissions.org/pages/for-pastors/podcastdetail/ 1/133/
 - Engage publicly:
 - Your website:
 - Your website's main function is to connect with your community, not your congregation.
 - https://gfamissions.org/how-effective-is-your-church-swebsite/
 - Your website should address the perceived spiritual needs of your community. (See demographic report)
 - Your appearance: buildings, grounds, parking lot, and signs.
 - Have you made it obvious where a first-time guest should park and enter the building?
- II. When you go to them.
 - Why should you go?
 - To give a good account before the Lord as you fulfill His command to go and make disciples.
 - To provide a good example to your congregation to go and make disciples.
 - Who goes with you?
 - There are times you must go alone.
 - There are times you should mentor others to go with you and then for you. Your ministry should be one of multiplication, not addition.
 - Where do you go?
 - Go to those within your congregation.
 - Specific needs do arise.
 - Specific problems do arise.
 - Note: You should keep your membership rolls up to date.
 - Go to those within your community.
 - Specific people:
 - Weekly visits to guests from the connect cards to personally invite them to your Intro/Welcome class. You could provide a copy of the connect card to the ones making the visit so they will know the spiritual needs of those they are visiting.

- Public and private school counselors to inform them that you are willing to assist families in conflict if they are seeking a faith-based solution. (See demographic report)
- Specific events:
 - Evangelistic Bible studies
 - VBS: Visiting the areas of your community where the most children live.
 - Evangelistic banquets.
 - Family/Marriage/Special conferences and meetings.
- Specific burdens:
 - What doors is God opening?
 - Where is the Holy Spirit leading?
 - Adopting a local school, homeless shelter, etc.
 - Neighborhood dessert night/cookouts.
 - Bible studies to meet a specific need.
 - o Example: Quieting a Noisy Soul by Jim Berg.
 - Volunteering in the area of your interest: coaching, volunteer fire fighter, chaplain, etc.
- When do you go?
 There is a relationship between the pastor's community involvement and the church's spiritual health.
 - O When do you go (leave the office) to engage your community?
 - When do you not go to protect your time with your family?