

# *vision & Mission*



**Matt 13:15** “Their ears scarcely hear and they have *closed their eyes*.  
**v.16** *But blessed are your eyes, because they see;*  
*and your ears, because they hear.”*

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The Church's Mission:

Is Not *Political* (Mt 22:21)

Is Not *Physical* (John 6:26)

It IS *Spiritual* (Mat 28:19f)

**Matt 28:19** “Go therefore and *make disciples* of all the nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father and the Son & Holy Spirit, **v.20** *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you*; and surely, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

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History has proven over and over that future generations *never fill the cavernous temples* of previous generations.

Don't let brick and mortar or the lack of it keep you from focusing on what matters most – *changed lives!*

Churches should focus on *building people*, not just building buildings! (Eph 4:12-13)

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## *A New Building*

Won't make people *more spiritual*. (Mt 22:37)

Won't make believers *closer together*. (1 Pet 1:22)

Won't *much attract people*. Didn't previously. (Rev 22:17)

Won't *make everybody happy* with it. (Eccles 7:10 Mt 15:9)

Won't *cost less*, if you incl: maint, utilities, ins. (Lk 14:28)

Sermons *won't sound better*. But *singing may*. (Ps 100:1-2)

**YET...** *It will keep us dry—& also be a place we can INVITE OTHERS.*

Apt to cost **NO MORE** than where we are now. (Prv 16:11)

Apt to *be healthier*: less mold, mildew. More usable rooms.

Will *eventually be paid off* & Church have more available \$\$

Key: You still have to **INVITE PEOPLE** & treat them **Warmly**. 4

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## **Statistics**

- Every year, 2.7 million church members **fall into inactivity**. They are leaving as hurting and wounded victims of some kind of abuse, disillusionment, or neglect! Institute for Church leadership Development. <> Compare Fellowship Christian Church experience.

**Resentment turns into a church *neglector* or a church *hater*. It can happen to a first time visit to a church where one was just ignored after working up the courage to go.**

**22%** of Americans "frequently" attended church in 1992  
**20.5%** of Americans "frequently" attended church in 1995  
**19%** of Americans "frequently" attended church in 1999  
**18.0%** of Americans "frequently" attended in church in 2002

- That says there's great **Opportunity** & great **Challenge**.

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When a person leaves a church, there are only a **4 -8 weeks max** to bring them back before the hurt becomes too much or they get settled somewhere else .

When the hurt builds, if it was not diffused by a simple effort of **contact and care** , these people may never come back to their home church or any church.

*Church Growth Consultant Dr. Richard J. Krejcir*

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## Top reasons why people leave:

- Not being *connected* in the church.
- Being revolted by *gossip*.
- Turned away by *conflict* and strife.
- Ineffective *teaching* and pastoral *care*.
- A *money-oriented ministry* so that people feel the church wants their money but not them.

1 Thess 2:7 “We were *gentle* among you, like a mother *caring* for her little children. 8 We *loved* you so much that we were *delighted* to share with you not only the *gospel* of God but our *lives* as well, because you had become so *dear* to us. NIV

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It is a shame to take the most wonderful work ever conceived; God's Word -and *water it down* or *give monotone boring lectures!*



Paul ... "*spoke in such a way* that a great number of both Jews & Greeks believed." (Acts 14:1)

We are to make God's Word *relate to us personally* and then *to others* around us.

1 Tim 4:16 " Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this *you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.*"

***BIBLICAL WARNING: Sugar-coated preaching***  
is dangerous to your soul. (2 Tim 4:2-4)

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Eph 4:32 “**Be kind** to one another, **tender-hearted, forgiving...**”

*It's Not Really the **Building**,  
It's **YOU!***

Visitors in a church will decide in *the first few minutes* whether or not they will come back. The *visitor will be most impacted by how they are greeted*, and will determine how they respond & connect to the group.

*Even if you have the best teaching and worship in the world, people will not stay where they are not welcomed.* First impressions are critical. If the church does not have a friendly atmosphere, then it will slowly die from its unkindness.