What Makes a Church Grow?

Matthew 9:35-38

* *A Decade of Change in American Congregations 2000-2010*, authored by David A. Roozen, shows that despite efforts at innovation, bursts of vitality and increased civic participation, faith communities are entering this decade less healthy than they were at the turn of the century.

HOW TO GROW A CHURCH

* Step 1) Growing a church is not as difficult as it may appear. The first step in growing a church is CONTACTING ALL THE GUESTS that attend your church and setting up a personal meeting. At the meeting, let them talk and you listen. Talk about your faith, your church, etc. when appropriate.

* Step 2) The second step in growing a church is asking all your current members to bring 1 person with them to church next time. Hence if you have a church of 100 and everyone of your members brings someone with them, before long you will have a church of 200 members.
* Step 3) The third step in growing a church is making and implementing a well-calculated marketing plan. Growing a church is really no different from growing a business--have a good marketing plan, implement it, and soon the hard work will pay off.

* HOW TO GROW A CHURCH

I. THE METHOD – PREACHING AND TEACHING

* **Matt. 9:35** "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness."
* **I Cor. 1:21** – "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."

* JESUS' EXAMPLE

II. THE MOTIVATION - COMPASSION

* **Matt. 9:36** – "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

* JESUS' EXAMPLE

III. THE MEANS – THE DISCIPLES

* **Matt. 9:37-38** -- “Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

* **JESUS’ EXAMPLE**