



Mayor Tom put this sign up. I thought you my brothers in Christ would like it.

“What a Bold Statement” !

"On the Move In Alvarado!"

Good things are happening in Alvarado. Our new billboard is getting people's attention and turning conversation towards God! Thank the Lord for a Godly Mayor! We have moved from the community center and we are sharing a building with Pastor Juan Ponce and their Hispanic congregation. Our services are at 3:00 pm on Sundays, so we



Church Fellowship in our Temporary Church Home

have had to adjust, but God is so faithful as we are having new families come in. We are going to assist them in some remodeling and we feel as we are a blessing then the Lord will lead us to property for us to own.

Blessings

Pastor Marshall Hall

New Life of Alvarado



Temporary Church Home



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What to do when your church hits a plateau

by Rick Warren

I hear it frequently: "My church has hit a plateau. What can I do to get it moving again?" While this can be a common crisis, it's not unfixable. There are several things you can do to help your church move beyond its growth block.

First, though, it's important to understand that the longer your church has been plateaued, the longer it's going to take to get it going again. There is tremendous power in momentum. At NASA, most of the energy – the jet fuel – in a rocket engine is used up in the first several hundred yards. It takes all that fuel just to get the thing off the launch pad. Once it's in orbit, it takes very little power to keep a rocket going. But you still have to get the thing going, and that initial push takes a lot of time and energy up front.

If your church has been plateaued for six months, it might take six months to get it going again. If it's been plateaued a year, it might take a year. If it's been plateaued for 20 years, you've got to set in for the duration!

I'm saying some people are going to have to die or leave. Moses had to wander around the desert for 40 years while God killed off a million people before he let them go into the Promised Land. That may be brutally blunt, but it's true. There may be people in your church who love God sincerely, but who will never, ever change.

I often tell the pastors of existing churches to remember the illustration of an oil tanker. It takes about 14 miles for an oil tanker to make a U-turn. That's like a lot of churches.

For a church to turn around it may take many, many minute degrees of change and a long time to make a complete turn around. I personally believe you have to be called to a church like that.

People ask, "Is it easier to start new

churches, or is it easier to take existing churches and turn them around?" My answer is this: "It's always easier to have babies than to raise the dead." However, God is in the business of raising the dead! He's a pro at resurrections, but it just might take some time. So what do you do with a church that has plateaued? I believe you need to do three things:

First, as we've just discussed, understand that it will take time. As pastor of an existing church that needs to be turned around, you must pray for an extra amount of patience. People change very slowly. They are resistant to change because they recognize that life as they've known it will cease to exist. So the very nature of the primary group is to fight change. It can take time to win them over.

Second, you love everybody, but you move with the movers. Pastor everybody, hold everybody's hand, don't show partiality, and continue to care for everybody. But you move with the movers.

Jesus spent the maximum amount of time with those who would bear the maximum amount of responsibility. Even though he fed the 5,000, he spent most of his time with the 12. Even with the 12, he had the inner circle with Peter, James, and John. Paul, in the book of Galatians, calls Peter, James, and John "pillars of the church" because they were the ones who would bear the maximum responsibility.

In every church there are the "E. F. Huttons: "When they speak, everybody listens!" Often they have no elected position. But they are the legitimizers in that church. In a small church, you need to find out who are the E. F. Huttons.

How do you know if they are the E. F. Huttons? They're often the people who are teased the most. It's an interesting little phenomenon. When they

tell a joke everybody laughs. When there's a decision to be made and somebody says something, everyone looks to see how the legitimizer is going to react.

You need to be perceptive of these people in your church. Find out who the legitimizers are; the ones who are willing to go for change. Find these people and start pouring your life into them. Build your vision in them. Love everybody but move with the movers.

Third, be prepared for conflict. It's going to come. Everybody wants a church to grow to a point. When it first starts growing, people will say, "Wow! Look at all these new young couples coming in! They can help pay the bills!"

But when the newcomers start throwing off the traditional balance, outweighing the old timers, then you've got problems. Tension grows, and the battle cry becomes, "We're losing our church!" That's a care/control issue. It's a conflict between the pioneers and the homesteaders. Who was there first, who came later, and who's going to win out?

In every church there are people who were there before you, and there are people who came after you. Then there are people there who are younger than you and there are people there who are older than you.

As a pastor, which of these groups can you most easily lead? Generally, it will be those who are younger and those who came after. Which is the hardest group to lead? Generally, it will be those who are older and those who were there before you. As a church begins to grow, tension comes suddenly.

You must feel called in your spirit to lead a church through change because change is never comfortable. It is almost always uncomfortable. Be assured of your calling, be prepared for the long haul, be ready for conflict, and move with the movers – and you'll slowly begin to turn the ship around.

Christian Community Church — CCC Brady

Well, goodness & blessings have been shed abroad on Christian Community Church & Church Family. CCC just completed a Revival with Rev. Kenneth & Cynthia Hyatt. They came with word and worship that encouraged our hearts and let us know that we are on track with what God is doing in this “Day of Turmoil & Uncertainty”. We are continuing to have our corporate prayer meetings on Monday & Saturday evenings from 6-7 p.m. We hope to have other churches join us soon as we endeavor to do a better job in reaching out to our community expecting change & transformation.

Community Outreach

Our classroom is being completed for computer classes. Dr. C.C. Stokes is leading the efforts as he has arranged for 8 to 10 students per class. The wireless system has been installed and equipment purchased and we will be starting classes very soon.

The church membership has given approval for an Annex Building to be located in the back of the church for expanding children’s church & Sunday school along with our puppet ministry which is led by Jimmy & Jonna Fore.

Pastoral Vacation

Dorene and I have just returned from vacation. We, along



with Lucille McBee traveled to Virginia to visit with our children, R.A. & Arlene. We traveled through Ark., Tenn., Kentucky and West Virginia to Harrisonburg, Virginia. Following a church service on Sunday, May 21st, R.A. & Arlene took us to see a “Real live Reenactment of a Civil War Battle on the same sight as it was fought in 1862. It was interesting as well as touching as we realized the



many lives that were lost for the cause of freedom. We must think of and pray for our military personnel who are still engaged in war in the Middle East, fighting for the same cause, Freedom, Liberty and Justice.

Our return trip home carried us through Tennessee for a day at Dollywood. We really en-

joyed a day of Gospel & Country Music as well as other sights in the Pigeon Forge area. Leaving Pigeon Forge, we traveled through Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the Cherokee National Forrest, a Cherokee Indian Reservation, and the Great Smokey Mountains and on down through North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. In Mississippi, we drove down through the small town of Pass



Christian where we experienced first hand the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Bridges were still out, houses for miles were totally wiped out. The only signs of life there were those living in FEMA trailers and volunteer workers in temporary businesses working out of Mobile Homes. We went on down I-10 to Louisiana and drove downtown New Orleans to see some of the area that was underwater last fall.

Miles and miles of abandoned and destroyed shopping centers, homes, hotels appearing like a Ghost Town. We could only pray God’s blessings on these poor people that lived through this and are still

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Pass Christian, Mississippi

trying to survive and re-build that area. We were in shock to see that the television broadcasts only give a

small tidbit of what the true devastation is like even after one year.

We traveled on through Houston, Texas on to College Station. There we stayed the night with Grand-

son and wife Ray and Lauri Evans. Sunday morning, May 28th we drove over to Waco for the Sunday Morning Worship at Antioch Community



Pass Christian, Mississippi

Church. We were blessed to worship with their congregation. After lunch we drove on to Alvarado, TX and worshipped at New Life Christian Fellowship with Bro. and Sis. Marshall Hall at 3:00 p.m. After that service, we headed home to Rochelle.

God is still allowing us to continue to be of service in soul winning, through our missions and Prison Ministries. We are still planning with several others from our church to attend the Minister's Conference in October in Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico. Hope to see you there.

Appreciation

Our deepest appreciation goes out to those who served the church in ministry while we were gone, they were: Sis. Alice Brown, Dr. C.C. Stokes, Sis. Lavonne Walthall, and Bro. Jimmy Fore. From our church to yours, Have a Blessed Summer!

God Bless,

Pastor Richard and Dorene

Meeting a God-sized Challenge

And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God. Nehemiah 6:16

Commitment comes before anything else in a leader's life. Because Nehemiah had it and drew it out of others, the people finished the wall in 53 days, despite much adversity. Their great accomplishment so thrilled Nehemiah that he wrote, "When all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things . . . they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God."

Leaders who complete a task possess these characteristics:

- Compelling purpose: They make a great commitment to a great cause.
- Clear perspective: They don't let fear cloud their view of the future.
- Continual prayer: They pray about everything and gain God's favor.
 - Courageous persistence: They move ahead despite the odds.

If you're facing a God-sized challenge, cultivate these characteristics to give yourself the best opportunity for success.

Dr. John C. Maxwell

<http://www.iequip.org>



Dollywood

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Please feel free to share the RMFI Newsletter with your congregation, family, friends, and visitors.

Bush's Pen Strengthens

FCC's Teeth in Enforcing Decency

The measure, sponsored by Congressman Fred Upton of Michigan and Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas, had been backed and actively promoted by numerous pro-family groups, many of which were represented at the signing. All are calling enactment of the bill a great victory for American families, and a step in the right direction toward holding broadcasters accountable for what they put on the airwaves.

Randy Sharp, director of special projects for American Family Association, was in attendance at the signing. AFA was among the many groups that encouraged its supporters to contact their Capitol Hill lawmakers, asking them to vote for the bill. Sharp is encouraged that parents took the time and made the effort to let their voices be heard on this matter.

"Parents are fed up with networks that generate gratuitous amounts of sex, violence, and profanity via the public airwaves -- particularly during hours when children may be watching," says Sharp. "They are more than ready to fight back by filing normal complaints with the [FCC]."

Lanier Swann with Concerned Women for America says the increase in fines is putting the industry on notice that Americans are "taking back their airwaves" and "demanding clean, wholesome entertainment."

"Up until now, broadcasting fines have been a drop in the bucket for millionaire broadcast corporations," says Swann. "Hopefully, a steep hike in fines will cause them to think twice before televising flagrant filth."

And while the CWA spokeswoman envisions that TV watchers should soon be less likely to stumble across profane language and offensive material as they change channels, her group's president acknowledges the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act is not a cure-all.

"Irresponsible broadcasters may still push the envelope, excuse vulgarity as 'fleeting,' and blame parents if kids are exposed to obscenity," says Wendy Wright. "But now everyone knows who is really to blame -- and there's a means to hold them accountable." As Wright points out, the new law is designed to get to broadcasters where it counts -- in the pocketbook.

Likewise, the president of the Parents Television Council (PTC) is

hopeful the increased fines will have the desired effect. America's families, says L. Brent Bozell, are "fed up with the sexually raunchy and gratuitously violent content" being aired by the nation's broadcasters -- particularly during the so-called "family hour" in the evening, when children are more likely to be among the viewing audience.

"The FCC will now have the authority to impose meaningful, punitive fines when the indecency law is broken," says Bozell. "We hope that the hefty fines will cause the multi-billion dollar broadcast networks finally to take the law seriously."

The signing of the bill caps off a two-and-a-half year effort by Congressman Fred Upton to increase the financial penalties against violators of broadcast decency standards. Upton introduced the House version of the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act on January 21, 2004. Less than two weeks later, the infamous "wardrobe malfunction" occurred during the halftime performance at the 2004 Super Bowl -- an incident that seemed to light a fire under the grassroots support for a tighter rein on broadcasters

By Jody Brown

June 15, 2006

<http://headlines.agapepress.org>

Revival Ministers Fellowship International
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Label Address Here



RMFI June 2006 Newsletter
Please feel free to share the RMFI
Newsletter with your congregation, family,

Calendar

Dates of interest:

- July 4, Independence Day Holiday
- August
- October 20-22, RMFI Conference Palenque, Mexico
- .
- .

Antioch Community Church

Becoming a Church Planting Church Conference

Every other year, Antioch hosts a conference specifically geared toward church leaders that are on some stage in the journey of beginning to plant churches.

Our goal for this conference is to encourage you, inspire you, and equip you to plant reproducing churches in the US and abroad. The small conference atmosphere (past attendance has averaged around 150) allows our entire staff to attend the conference to fellowship and serve you up close!

The conference is November 13-15 and is a great value! The registration is minimal (\$75) and includes breakfast and lunch most days.

Let Pastor Richard Evans Know if you would be interested in attending this conference

NEWSLETTER INFO: We encourage all RMFI member pastors and ministries to submit your current news to the RMFI newsletter. To submit information, news, or articles for inclusion in the next newsletter (and website), send the article typed in plain text format via email or regular mail and we will include it in the newsletter. Newsletter submission deadlines for 06 –07

- August 30th
- November 30th
- February 24th
- May 30th

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