



## ***Church Jumpstart:***

### ***A 10-Week Journey Towards Reviving Our Church***

#### ***Session 6: Look Around You***

### ***Devotional: A Vision For Our City***

Ezekiel 22:30 – “I looked for a man...who would stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.”

We are called to be stewards of the communities in which we live. We are responsible for the health of the town and state and country where we live. Don't like how things are going where you live? God expects his people to do something about it. The presence of the righteous in a community is meant to be a blessing to that community.

Look up the following Scriptures and write down their message.

Proverbs 11:10

Proverbs 14:34

Proverbs 28:12

***What do the  
righteous have  
to do for evil to  
take over?***

***Answer: Nothing***

When God's people were taken into exile to Babylon for seventy years, God said something interesting to them through his prophet Jeremiah. Read Jeremiah 29:7. Discuss its implication for our time and place.

If a community is broken by sin and ungodliness, one of two explanations is possible: 1. There are no righteous people in it. Or 2. Those who are righteous are not working to transform their city.

If #2 is the problem, what might be the explanations for this? Any theories on how to fix this?

## Discussion of *The Unstuck Church*

### Chapter 6: *Preservation – The Church Must Change To Survive*



In our last discussion, we diagnosed that First Baptist is teetering into, if not solidly occupying, the *Preservation* stage of the church life-cycle. We discussed a number of characteristics of a church at this stage, and several ideas for out to return to health.

The last idea we covered had to do with church government. Tony Morgan said we must:

Structure Boards For Health And Impact: Move More People Into **Ministry** Over **Meetings**.

This idea should really cause each of us to cry out: *OUCH!* Because this is us. It was us more than 20 years ago when Pastor Mike Adam wrote an honest, detailed report about the church. Pastor Mike wrote:

*“There are 4 boards that conduct month to month business of the church. These boards then form the overarching Advisory Board that make recommendations to the congregation for action. This government requires 51 officers. That is 20% of the worship attendance for 1992.”*

*“The church has had a number of excellent pastors. However one of the descriptions of the church is that it is a “lay-led church”. The pastor’s position is significantly weakened in this church. This leadership is played out in a lack of trust in the pastor and his position...Lay leaders then are not doing the job they were called to do, ministry to the people, because they are spending all of their time deciding and checking on the pastor...The literature is very clear that churches do not grow under strong lay leadership.”*

It’s only gotten worse since then. Church growth expert John Kaiser, in his powerful book *Winning On Purpose* could be describing us when he says:

*“Originally designed to produce mission results, [most churches have] become so complicated and cumbersome as to only produce reports, maintain salaries and preserve properties. Never has the church managed so much and changed the world so little.”*

Last weekend (as if it had been planned that way!), our friends Rev. Ray Bennett and Dr. Bob Orr came and let us through a critical seminar introducing us to the “Accountability Leadership Model” (ALM). In the seminar, they helped us look at church government in a new way, and provided some suggestions for how to make changes for the better.

Among some of my notes were these quotes:



*We can either get work done or we can sit in meetings. ~ Peter Drucker*

*The church body breaks down when the main thing doesn't remain the main thing.*

*This year, we killed more than 70 ministries. ~ Pastor Rick Warren*

*The ALM balances **authority** and **accountability**. It empowers God's people to act within **boundaries** to fulfill the mission.*

The ALM combines:

- **Governance** by the board.
- **Leadership** by the pastor.
- **Management** by the staff
- **Ministry** by the congregation.

What were some of your thoughts and takeaways from the seminar?

What next steps do you think we should take?

Don't forget these suggestions that Morgan offers which we shared in Session 5:

***Have only one lay leadership board, which should be made up of five to nine people, depending on the size of the church. Eliminate all other boards and committees. This board sticks to the big picture, and it doesn't get involved in the day-to-day ministry decisions, which are the pastor's and the staff's responsibility.***

***The board's primary responsibilities include modeling spiritual leadership for the rest of the congregation and providing encouragement to the senior pastor.***

***The board should also be engaged in big-picture decisions that shape the church's mission, vision, and values. When it comes to defining ministry strategy, though, that responsibility belongs to the pastor and staff. If there's a healthy relationship established with trust and unity, it won't be unusual for the pastor to seek guidance and wisdom from the board on big strategic shifts.***

***The board should focus on decisions that are significant in scope, like approving the annual budget, setting the pastor's salary, purchasing land, or building new facilities. The pastor and staff should be responsible for day-to-day operations.***

***The board should oversee only one person—the senior pastor. That means the senior pastor has the responsibility of hiring, managing, coaching, directing, and, if needed, firing anyone in a staff role. If a senior pastor demonstrates an inability to handle these responsibilities, the board's recourse is to find another pastor.***

What does any of this have to do with *empowering and encouraging our community with the love of Christ?*

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There is one final suggestion that Morgan gives to help churches break out of the Preservation mode and return to health:

Prioritize The Main Thing: Adding More **Events** To The Calendar Will Not Produce Church Health.

In other words, having fewer meetings and more ministry does not necessarily mean *more events*. It means that we'll think about the events we schedule from a *missional point of view*.

To explain what we mean, Morgan provides this chart. Let's study it and discuss it.

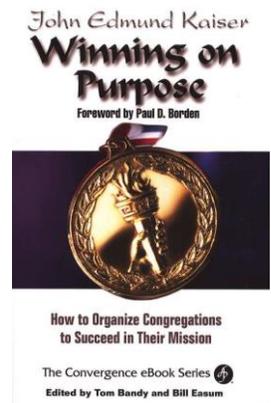
Healthy Events	Unhealthy Events
The win is helping people take a next step after the event.	The win is getting people to show up to the event.
The target audience is people who haven't connected to the church or ministry.	The target audience is people who have already connected to the church or ministry.
The primary way people hear about the event is through the invitation of a friend.	The primary way people hear about the event is through promotions.
Volunteer teams own the event.	Staff teams own the event.
Events are prioritized so people are encouraged to stay connected in their other community engagements.	Events are scheduled to force people to choose church over other community engagements.
Since guests are expected, every element of the experience is planned with that in mind.	Since guests are not expected, certain elements don't need as much attention.
You capture pictures and video to share the stories of people who were impacted by the event.	You capture pictures and video to share the story of the event itself.
After the event, there's a debrief to make sure the win was accomplished.	After the event, you communicate how many people showed up.
Every year the events are evaluated to make sure they are still fulfilling their primary purpose.	Every year the events are scheduled because they're expected.
The event is scheduled again to connect new people to the church.	The event is scheduled again to keep people from leaving the church.

Observations:

So two upcoming events are our “Chili Cookoff” and “Volleyball Nights”. If we’re thinking properly, how will we plan these events differently than perhaps we did in the past?

For next week:

- Read chapter 7, “Life Support” in “The Unstuck Church”.
- If the church governance modifications we need to make are heavy on your heart, pick up a copy of John Kaiser’s book “Winning On Purpose”. The ALM model is largely based on Kaiser’s writings and research.



- Next week, we're going to zero in our looking at Taft with new and fresh eyes. To prepare for that session, we ask you to do 2 things:
  - a) Take a couple prayer walks/drives around town, beginning with your neighborhood.
  - b) Look over each of the demographic charts we've provided in the appendix of today's session which describe Taft's population. *Think missionally* and *prayerfully* as you study these charts. We'll discuss these next week. (Source: [www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov))

## APPENDIX

Notes:

Geography: Taft city, California ▼

Subject	Number	Percent
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>		
Total population	9,327	100.0
Under 5 years	538	5.8
5 to 9 years	460	4.9
10 to 14 years	507	5.4
15 to 19 years	644	6.9
20 to 24 years	736	7.9
25 to 29 years	880	9.4
30 to 34 years	919	9.9
35 to 39 years	913	9.8
40 to 44 years	809	8.7
45 to 49 years	718	7.7
50 to 54 years	584	6.3
55 to 59 years	456	4.9
60 to 64 years	378	4.1
65 to 69 years	284	3.0
70 to 74 years	180	1.9
75 to 79 years	125	1.3
80 to 84 years	105	1.1
85 years and over	91	1.0
Median age (years)	34.9	( X )
16 years and over	7,700	82.6
18 years and over	7,483	80.2
21 years and over	7,026	75.3
62 years and over	997	10.7
65 years and over	785	8.4

Male population	6,071	65.1
Under 5 years	281	3.0
5 to 9 years	225	2.4
10 to 14 years	246	2.6
15 to 19 years	348	3.7
20 to 24 years	491	5.3
25 to 29 years	691	7.4
30 to 34 years	724	7.8
35 to 39 years	708	7.6
40 to 44 years	617	6.6
45 to 49 years	515	5.5
50 to 54 years	387	4.1
55 to 59 years	273	2.9
60 to 64 years	215	2.3
65 to 69 years	145	1.6
70 to 74 years	90	1.0
75 to 79 years	50	0.5
80 to 84 years	41	0.4
85 years and over	24	0.3

Female population	3,256	34.9
Under 5 years	257	2.8
5 to 9 years	235	2.5
10 to 14 years	261	2.8
15 to 19 years	296	3.2
20 to 24 years	245	2.6
25 to 29 years	189	2.0
30 to 34 years	195	2.1
35 to 39 years	205	2.2
40 to 44 years	192	2.1
45 to 49 years	203	2.2
50 to 54 years	197	2.1
55 to 59 years	183	2.0
60 to 64 years	163	1.7
65 to 69 years	139	1.5
70 to 74 years	90	1.0
75 to 79 years	75	0.8
80 to 84 years	64	0.7
85 years and over	67	0.7

RACE		
Total population	9,327	100.0
One race	9,083	97.4
White	7,388	79.2
Black or African American	396	4.2
American Indian and Alaska Native	118	1.3
American Indian, specified [1]	80	0.9
Alaska Native, specified [1]	0	0.0
Both American Indian and Alaska Native, specified [1]	0	0.0
American Indian or Alaska Native, not specified	38	0.4
Asian	93	1.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	65	0.7
Some Other Race	1,023	11.0
Two or More Races	244	2.6
Two races with Some Other Race	83	0.9
Two races without Some Other Race	150	1.6
Three or more races with Some Other Race	8	0.1
Three or more races without Some Other Race	3	0.0
<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO</b>		
Total population	9,327	100.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3,353	35.9
Mexican	3,096	33.2
Puerto Rican	17	0.2
Cuban	5	0.1
Other Hispanic or Latino [2]	235	2.5
Not Hispanic or Latino	5,974	64.1
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO</b>		
Total population	9,327	100.0
One race	9,083	97.4
Hispanic or Latino	3,261	35.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	5,822	62.4
Two or More Races	244	2.6
Hispanic or Latino	92	1.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	152	1.6

Subject	Number	Percent
<b>HOUSEHOLD TYPE</b>		
Total households	2,254	100.0
Family households [1]	1,586	70.4
Male householder	1,155	51.2
Female householder	431	19.1
Nonfamily households [2]	668	29.6
Male householder	318	14.1
Living alone	236	10.5
Female householder	350	15.5
Living alone	307	13.6
<b>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</b>		
Total households	2,254	100.0
1-person household	543	24.1
2-person household	661	29.3
3-person household	348	15.4
4-person household	349	15.5
5-person household	187	8.3
6-person household	95	4.2
7-or-more-person household	71	3.1
Average household size	2.83	( X )
Average family size	3.32	( X )
<b>FAMILY TYPE AND PRESENCE OF RELATED AND OWN CHILDREN</b>		
Families [3]	1,586	100.0
With related children under 18 years	896	56.5
With own children under 18 years	781	49.2
Under 6 years only	178	11.2
Under 6 and 6 to 17 years	185	11.7
6 to 17 years only	418	26.4
Husband-wife families	1,119	100.0
With related children under 18 years	563	50.3
With own children under 18 years	517	46.2
Under 6 years only	99	8.8
Under 6 and 6 to 17 years	131	11.7
6 to 17 years only	287	25.6

Subject	Estimate
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>	
Total population	9,224
Male	5,508
Female	3,716
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	148.2
Under 5 years	624
5 to 9 years	585
10 to 14 years	571
15 to 19 years	730
20 to 24 years	651
25 to 34 years	1,142
35 to 44 years	1,399
45 to 54 years	1,446
55 to 59 years	685
60 to 64 years	381
65 to 74 years	589
75 to 84 years	270
85 years and over	151
Median age (years)	37.1
Under 18 years	2,187
16 years and over	7,381
18 years and over	7,037
21 years and over	6,391
62 years and over	1,233
65 years and over	1,010
18 years and over	7,037
Male	4,438
Female	2,599
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	170.8

Notes: