

Infusing New Energy into Churches

Participant Booklet

*The purpose of this module is: **To infuse new vitality into a local congregation.***

The objectives for this module are:

- Build trust among God's people;
- Cultivate an atmosphere of openness to new possibilities;
- Expand outreach efforts.

When weariness, disappointment, and discouragement settle into a congregation, members ask:

- What can we do?
- What needs to happen?
- How can we experience again the effective ministry we once had?

What factors provide congregations with vitality and renewal?

1. Trust-_____ through people-care
 - a. _____ relationships
 - b. _____ friendships
 - c. _____ congregational base—affirm people who serve; spread joy; thank each other; support leadership.
 - d. _____ volunteers for ministry
 - e. _____ to orphans and widows (James 1:27).
 - f. _____ consistently and openly.
2. _____ a congregation's spiritual history and glory sharing
 - a. _____ where God has been working through this particular congregation.
 - b. Interview faithful attendees to find the "Acts of the Holy Spirit" in this locale.
 - i. How has God been evident in recent times?
 - ii. How are people growing spiritually?
 - c. Give _____ to God in prayer.
 - d. What design (intentional plan) _____ how this congregation grows disciples?
 - e. How are leaders being trained and _____ into ministry?
3. _____ evangelistic effectiveness for future strategies
 - a. How did recent _____ happen to worship for the first time?
 - b. Describe three conversions or baptisms observed by this church.
 - c. Who are the bringers (those who invite the unchurched)?

- d. Describe the _____ offered by this congregation.
 - e. How many newcomers return and then are retained?
4. _____ dreams and meeting needs
- a. Usually the Spirit has _____ a dream in the hearts of local leaders.
 - b. When the dreams are unfurled, congregations tend to _____ to the possibilities.
 - c. When God's people tie together meeting needs in the community with the dream, excitement and unity result.
 - d. People tend to come together to do what God is _____ them to do.
5. _____ leaders for horizon hunting
- a. Dreamers _____ when affirmed for seeing what others do not.
 - b. When faithfulness is rewarded, people are willing to risk and to venture forward.
 - c. Honor those who have served well.
 - d. New pathways become _____ when needs in the community are researched.

Small Group Discussion

What can you imagine the future to be?

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.

How would you describe the Thessalonian church?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16.

What kind of ministries grew out of the Thessalonian church?

IV. Action Planning/Reporting

1. Arrange a service around testimonies of how God has worked in your congregation.
2. Write out a design for making disciples.
3. Discover the bringers (people who invite the unchurched) in your congregation.
4. Track the number of newcomers, returning family units, and people who have been retained over three months' time.
5. Describe a dream for your congregation.