



**bits from bob....**

## **GET YOUR CHURCH BACK ON GOD'S TRACK**

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Churches that want to grow often fall into the trap of trying to copy the success of others. They try to clone success. They see something that works in another church and try to recreate that success in their own congregation. Too often the result is frustration, because ministry is always context specific. Effective ministry demands that the local church develop its own innovative and creative ideas. It is not difficult. Here are three activities that will help you get on track with effective ministry in your own life setting and church context.

### Look up, look to God

Begin with the Bible, read it with fresh eyes, seek to see God, try to understand God's revelation

Seek to hear God, seek communication with God

Seek to understand God's purpose, plan, will for the world

Put the Jesus story in your heart so that it is second nature, controlling, guiding

### Look inside

Looking inside has two dimensions—look inside yourself individually, look inside your church

Assess your life and your church—successes, failures, everything—against the backdrop of Scripture

Assess your life and your church—successes, failures, everything—in your own context

Commit yourself to fixing weak and broken places with God's help

Get ready for some “out of the box” thinking, brainstorm rather than cloning

Think broadly, think across disciplines, learn from others, consider other organizations and other applications

### Look around

Look at others, see others

Seek people, seek souls, think souls

Where are the needs, the hurts, the entry points to the hearts of those you know?

Where are the entry points to your community?

Seek ways to meet needs innovatively

Share the good news in the context where people live