

**Things I would not be without if I were starting a new ministry**  
**[a priority list for a church that wants to reach new people and grow numerically]**  
**Compiled by Bob Young**

The items on this list are based primarily on my experience in two churches. Both churches grew dramatically. The first church grew from a base membership of slightly over 150 to near 400 in 11 years. The second also grew in attendance with attendance increasing by 100-125 in eight years (from 175 to near 300).

I list four things that relate to the activities of the church, one very important item related to the work of the preacher, and one more thing that I did not focus on but would definitely include if I were beginning again.

**FOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**An organized calling program**

This is the front line effort of every growing church; this is where the mission of the church is made obvious and kept in focus

An organized effective calling program insures immediate contacts by members [PEP]  
Front line calling on visitors and other contacts implies immediate follow up [Tele-Touch; LoveNotes]

Make the program 'do-able', member involvement is one night per month, perhaps for the leaders 2 nights per month [Nights of Caring]

Evangelism is a separate point in this list, but the calling program includes evangelistic calling

- In a short period of time, any Christian can be trained to share the gospel
- Some Christians are more gifted than others; 10-15 trained people can often handle most of the work to be done
- Christians who have been trained in evangelism usually want to be involved in evangelistic calling
- This trains Christian witnesses who are comfortable telling their story

**Planned worship services**

The best evangelism beyond the Holy Spirit is a red hot Sunday morning assembly

Develop a group that is committed to planning worship, with variety in the service, some surprises, IMPACT! This is often a worship ministry or worship committee

The preacher must be committed to variety in the sermon—styles, topics, learning types, etc.

Effectively planned worship services includes visitor management

- Greeters; start outside building if possible
- Try to see through the eyes of the visitor, signage, comfort levels, first impressions

**Managed, organized evangelism effort**

Consider the timing of the annual church calendar, what are the growth times, Silver Sundays, Golden Sundays

Work to deal with the difficult times, and build on the good times

If this is not done well, much of the annual progress is erased in the slump times

Do everything you can to attract people; attractive Bible classes  
Church is moving away from “worship evangelism” to “personal evangelism” which has varying forms

**Organized fellowship AND spontaneous fellowship**

Have plans for fellowship, encourage fellowship, some kind of groups program  
Do lots of things that are outside the “norm”

**AN ITEM FOR PREACHERS: DEVELOP THE PERSONAL TOUCH**

Call on everyone in the congregation as soon as practical, personal touch; we visited every member in the first year; establish relationships, get to know the members, make sure the members know you; develop trust  
Carefully seek community involvement in activities that allow a continuing stream of new contacts

**ONE MORE THING I WOULD DO**

**A prayer emphasis**

A prayer ministry or prayer council  
Include variety in the prayers in the assembly to help all the congregation grow in prayer  
Unstructured prayer times  
Prayer time besides traditional services, use of prayer stations or prayer tables