

I. My Challenge

✚ **Linda Gassler’s Word** – God is doing a great work here and you’ve got a great church. It’s sound, it’s stable, it’s strong, You’ve got quality here. Don’t take it for granted. Know that everything that God gives you, you need to protect and guard what God has given you here. It’s a precious gift, not something to be taken lightly. God is doing a great work here in Dodge Center. You don’t believe that, though, do you. I shouldn’t say, you don’t believe it, but you don’t have the impact of it to the extent that the Spirit of God wants you to know. He wants you to be excited about this place. Be excited about it and guard it and keep it as precious. Don’t take what you’ve got for granted and know that what you’ve got is really good.

✚ **Brock** – Community is strong here (cultishly friendly?)

✚ **Larissa** – church (s)hopped in TX. It’s rare to find a church where the young people are given charge of the service

✚ **Sue** – after ATF – rare to find pastors/churches that are seeing the value and are supportive of youth ministry

✚ **Melanie with Chad Greene** – describing their search for church. Mel - We’ve spoiled a bunch of you young people and it is hard to find something similar to what you grew up with. Chad – Yes, exactly.

✚ What is challenging me – a good thing that doesn’t grow?

◆ Statistics of attendance over the years

- 2009 average: 62
- 2010 average: 65
- 2011 average: 62

II. Why concerned about Numbers?

✚ The thing about numbers

◆ Does outward appearance reveal true success?

◆ Success is not always what you see (Poster)

✚ Numbers does not equal success

◆ How will I know that I am successful?

◆ I know that it is not in numbers

1.

◆ You will be successful in reproducing yourself

✚ What constitutes growth?

◆ Expanding the kingdom of God

- Outreach events
- Missions – not only supporting, but direct involvement

◆ Sending growth

- People move – (or move on – which is okay)
- Young people relocate

✚ So what’s the thing about growing in numbers here?

✚ Word of the Lord - July 1996 – Tent Revival Meetings on the Hwy 56 property - the Lord said that He wanted a church building built on that piece of property. - Size – 300 expandable to 500.

✚ Biblical Tensions That Keep Us In Tune

✚ Not just about numbers – many things will draw a crowd (Beer, Brats, and Babes)

◆ Jesus thinned crowds

✚ Mark 16:15 And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”

✚ Matthew 28:20 “Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

✚ God’s part and our part -

Acts 2:42 - 47 (NLT) ⁴²All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper[£]), and to prayer. ⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity[£]— ⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. 2.

And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

- ✚ Our part and God's part- **Acts 2:42 - 47 (NLT)** All the believers devoted themselves ...And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

III. Dream and Steam Team

- ✚ Purpose: Utilization of the ministry leader team for the development of an **OBJECTIVE PERSPECTIVE** for effectively reaching, ministering to, and maturing 300 people
- ✚ Evaluation of each area of ministry: and its **applications for achieving** the vision of 300
- ✚ PERSPECTIVE – DREAM
- ✚ APPLICATION – STEAM
- ✚ **Dumbo – Steam Engine – “I think I can”**
- ✚ **Young and their T-Shirts**
- ✚ TEAM – balanced perspective
- ✚ From Unique Design - Balance of “lenses” of perspectives
 - ◆ Dreamer – calm, reflective
 - ◆ Catalyzer – persuasive, bold
 - ◆ Energizer – spontaneous, funloving
 - ◆ Persister – dedicated, conscientious
 - ◆ Harmonizer – compassionate, warm
 - ◆ Achiever – logical, organized
- ✚ From Various “Thinking Hats”
 - ◆ White – information, objective facts and figures
 - ◆ Red – feelings and emotion
 - ◆ Black – caution, looking for danger
 - ◆ Yellow – sunny and positive
 - ◆ Green – creativity, new ideas
 - ◆ Blue – control, the organization of the thinking process
- ✚ Each ministry leaders present their area of ministry
 - ◆ What it looks like at 300
 - ◆ What steps to take to get there
 - ◆ What resources are needed
 - ◆ What will need to change for me personally (weary in well-doing)

3.

- ✚ Not just a dutiful obligation, but joy filled delight – let's make this a fun adventure, not a grueling exercise that puts people in guilt mode

IV. Mature

- ✚ Salvation by Grace: I believe nothing I do or have done can earn my salvation
- ✚ The Trinity: I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- ✚ Personal God: I believe God is actively involved in my life
- ✚ Christ is First: I desire Jesus to be first in my life
- ✚ Authority of the Bible: I believe the Bible has decisive authority over what I say and do
- ✚ Identity in Christ: I exist to know, love, and serve God
- ✚ Stewardship: I believe a Christian should live a sacrificial life that is not driven by pursuit of material things
- ✚ Giving My Life Away: I am willing to risk everything that is important in my life for Jesus Christ
- ✚ Giving Away My Faith: I pray for non-Christians to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
- ✚ Giving Away My Time: I give away my time to serve and help others in my community
- ✚ Giving Away My Money: My first priority in spending is to support God's work
- ✚ Colossians 1:25-28
 - ◆ A servant to the church
 - ◆ Teaching with the wisdom God has given me
 - ◆ to present them to God, perfect (mature) in their relationship to Christ.
 - ◆ Depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.
- ✚ 2 Corinthians 5:14 - 15 (NLT) ¹⁴Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

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