

Three Necessary Ingredients for Church Growth

by Wayne Goff

When we moved to Kansas City in 1994, people asked me why I thought the church on Roanridge Road would grow. I told them that from my perspective there were three important ingredients necessary for a local church to grow, and that this congregation had all three. Well, it's been twenty-five years since that time, so I thought I might share these ingredients with the members who were not here at the time.

Strong Leadership

A local congregation must have qualified elders to be Scripturally organized, Philippians 1:1. Elders are to oversee or superintend the group of Christians, Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3. The church here had about 35 in attendance, but had two good elders in Ken Young and Ray Harris. The three of us worked together beautifully, harmoniously, and enjoyably, and the church grew. Working deacons are also important to the local church (see Acts 6:1ff), and we had some of those as well.

Strong Membership

The elders cannot lead those who will not follow! However, we had members who loved the Lord, knew what the church was supposed to be, and stood behind our elders so that there was no friction or difficulties to hinder us. Hebrews 13:7 says, “Remember those who **rule over you**, who have spoken the word of God to you, **whose faith follow**, considering the outcome of their conduct.” The membership did exactly that, and we had a peaceful, happy group with a very positive outlook on the future. As a result, we grew from 35 to 50, then to 80, then to 120, and eventually we had about 160 in attendance.

Good Location

The third ingredient is a good location where the brethren can meet. Many local churches across the land cannot afford a location right on the interstate like we have. So we are blessed to be where we are, and many visitors have stopped by just because they saw the building here. **Good advertising** can offset a poor location, and a **good web site** can help traveling saints and interested visitors find the church. Word of mouth, by each member of a local church, is the best advertisement of all (Acts 8:4).

Sound Preaching

Book, chapter and verse preaching must be done by the local preacher to save the lost, build up the body, and to stave off false teachers and trouble makers. Now if you're counting, then you see **four** ingredients. That's because I was the preacher, so I didn't need to count myself when looking for a productive opportunity. If I could find the first three, then with God's help, I could add number four.

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