

## WEEK 3 – GROWING CHURCH

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### ***Ownership of vision/growth***

- what am I going to do?
- what am I going to do differently

Science experiment – expecting a different result from doing the same thing.

This means that it changes from a head thing to a heart thing – that's when our actions change

HEAD - HEART – ACTION or Theory/Intellect – love – action

What is our heart motivation? Look good? Do the right thing?

Or responding to what God is asking us to do?

### ***MUSIC/QUIET***

Spend a few minutes in quietness – what is God impressing on you – what is heavy on your heart – what dream is he planting/sowing?

Dreams – imagination – new – fresh – relevant

What do you have a passion for?

Write down and keep/pray – we will pray about this again in Week 4

### ***Growing churches***

- **what about dying/declining churches** – church attendance has been declining for many years 50+
- only about 8% of the population claim to go to church with any regularity – eg one a month

### ***Why declining?***

- FLIP CHART

Church of Jesus nationally is growing significantly/Africa/Asia/South America

Why not here then? Think about

### ***Why do some churches grow and others don't?***

## **EXAMPLES**

### ***Kennington – 600+***

1. Community based
2. Strong leadership
3. Bible based
4. Culture – understood
5. Prayer

### ***Willow Creek – Bill Hybels (15,000+ people)***

1. Seeker sensitive – style of service
2. Relationship based Evangelism
3. Bible based/quality teaching/preaching
4. Vision/leadership - sensitive
5. Cell groups/youth/singles etc
6. Quality/Excellence
7. Good worship experience

### ***Saddleback Church - Rick Warren ( 10,000+ people)***

1. Strong leadership/vision
2. Purpose driven

*Our Purpose here at Saddleback is to lead people to Jesus and membership in his family, teach them to worship the Lord and magnify his name, develop them to Christlike maturity, and equip them for ministry in the church, and a mission in the world*

3. Bible based/quality teaching/preaching
4. Relationship based Evangelism
5. Quality/Excellence
6. Open to change/movement

***Elevation Church – Steven Furtick aged 32/33 (5,000+ people)***

1. Started 3 years ago about six committed couples
2. Young/vibrant
3. Good worship experience
4. Not afraid to talk about any relevant subject
5. Great communicator/bible based
6. Excellent use of technology

***Mars Hill Church – Rob Bell (5,000+ people)***

1. Brilliant teaching/preaching
2. Community based – community projects
3. Mission minded church home/away
4. Excellence in communication/media (NOOMA)
5. Contemporary
6. Strong leadership – Rob Bell no longer Senior Pastor

Google these names and have a look – be inspired/encouraged

***New church in Acts***

1. Pioneering/high growth phase
2. Passionate leadership
3. Holy Spirit
4. Miraculous
5. Messy
6. Relevant/contemporary/meeting needs

***Characteristics of growing churches – but they are actually all very different!!***

## **YOU ARE GOING TO SET UP A NEW CHURCH/PLANT IN CANTERBURY**

1. What would it look like/feel like/vision/name?
2. Style/focus/purpose/priorities?
3. What about the existing churches?
4. What would you take from us?
5. What would you change?
6. What is non negotiable?
7. Who/what influences your idea of church?
8. What resources would you need and where would you get them from?
9. Why will it grow?
10. What role will each of you take?

All the things we have considered are also relevant to departments in church – if we are involved or become involved in something – they are still considerations

***what part are you going to play?***

***Are you willing and available?***

***Do you dare to dream dreams?***

***Growth***

- ***do you want it***
- ***longing for it?***
- ***Afraid/concerned***
- ***Head or heart***
- ***Theory or getting you hands dirty***