

Reaching the Summit

____% of churches in North America today are plateaued or declining.

Attrition: We must add between _____% each year to account for attrition in our churches.

In the words of Jesus,

“Yet, I hold this against you, you have lost your first love.” Revelation 2:4

“Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.”

Revelation 2:5

Describe *being* vs. *doing* _____

Why a Coach?

A coach is one who is trained in bringing _____ of others what is otherwise hidden and covered up.

A coach is a person who has the ability to see the _____ of your ministry from a vantage point you do not have.

A coach is equipped to formulate _____ that allow you to explore the unknown or unused wisdom, experience, and discernment of your ministry and the members of your church or organization.

Choosing a Coach

You are not looking for someone who only wants to give suggestions, but an experienced coach who is willing to walk with you through the process, and one who knows and relates to your doctrinal positions.

Leaders of a declining organization must come to the realization that the organization is in decline and the fact that “I” or my actions (or inactions) might have contributed to part of the cause for decline.



Most organizations do not fall in one clear-cut, knock-down drop.

Most of the reasons we give for decline have to do with outside influences.

The _____ signs of decline may be subtle and ignored or explained away.
The first phase can go on for several years without notice.

Phase One—Loss of Vision

Chapter 1

- The most subtle of all
- Goes unnoticed by church members & leaders
- Can be due to a lack of expectations on members

Phase Two—Lack of Purpose

Chapter 2

- begins to affect the ministry of the church
-
-

- Churches settle for good at the cost of greatness
- ministries begin to suffer
- unchecked Control

Phase Three—Denial of Reality

Chapter 3

- Evidence of decline becomes obvious
- Tendency to discount or explain away negative data
- Attempt to explain away the obvious

- work harder, do more

Phase Four Grasping for Survival

Chapter 4

- Realize a staggering change is necessary

- Treating symptoms not causes

- Grasping
- A series of injurious decisions

Phase Five—Relinquishment of Ministry

Chapter 5

- The church no longer have people or financial resources to maintain the facilities much less carry out ministry
- The best we can pray for that the property and assets be used to glorify God

Based on your perspective circle the number corresponding with the phase you believe best describes your church today.

1 2 3 4 5

Section Two: Avoiding and Reversing Decline

Filling Positions with the Right People

Chapter 6

_____ before what

People of _____

_____ instead of manage

Recruiting Volunteers

Past performance is the best indicator of future expectations

List two steps you can put into place to move toward having the right people in all positions of leadership?

1

2

A Vigorous Face to Face Summit With Reality Chapter 7

A vigorous look at the _____ of your situation

What do we look at?

Historical Data, _____ Patterns

Trends, Character _____

I _____, Core V _____

Community Assessment, _____ Interviews, Faith Levels

What two ideas can you take from this information to lead your church in the next 30 days to begin the process of having a face to face summit with the reality of your situation?

1

2

Understanding the Necessity of the Situation Chapter 8

Realize There Is a Call for Further Development

Identify with the Necessity of the Situation

Take Individual Responsibility

On a scale of 1-10 where do you believe your church is in understanding the necessity of your situation?

Don't care apathetic maybe very concerned

1 _____ 10

The One Best Thing Chapter 9

If there were no obstacles or barriers in front of you, what is the one thing you would be doing for God?

Understanding Purpose and Passion

Capture Principles

Narrowing to One

Vision: The compelling image of an Achievable Future Chapter 10

A yearning for something that captures the heart. So compelling that action is inevitable.

Vision Development: Prayer, Pastor's Retreat, _____ Retreat

What 3 steps from this information are needed most in your church today?

1

2

3

Moving the Locomotive

Chapter 11

Success comes by making a series of good decisions, one decision at a time.

These good decisions must come as a team effort, using the information you have learned through the vigorous face-to-face summit with reality.



What can be undertaken to improve the decision-making in your church?

Organized Open Small Group Bible Studies

Chapter 12

The _____ organized
Great Commission oriented

Must have two things: *Passion and Strategy*

Passion for...

Biblical _____, Biblical community
_____ people, & _____

Strategy for...

Equipping, growing _____,
building _____, expansion & engagement

Passion and Strategy for Celebratory Atmosphere

List 3 items that can be put into practice in the next 45 days to improve your Open Small Group Bible Studies.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Stalwart & Steadfast

Chapter 13

Holding onto a stalwart belief and a steadfast faith
you can reach the summit of God's call
on your life and ministry.