Where is Your Church Focused?

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Let’s Consider Three Things:

• The definition of and difference between community-focused and internally-focused churches.

• Which kind of church is biblical – an internally-focused or community-focused church?

• How can we be the kind of Church God calls us to be?
What is an Internally-Focused Church?

• Good worship.
• Strong ministries.
• Focuses attention on getting people into church, and what happens in church.
• Effectiveness determined by attendance and quality of worship.
• Time and budget primarily spent on what occurs inside the church walls.
What is a Community-Focused Church?

- Good worship
- Strong ministries.
- Focuses attention on taking Good News and good deeds into the community.
- Effectiveness measured by impact on community.
- Large portion of *time* and *budget* spent on what occurs outside the church walls.
Which Kind of Church is Biblical?

• Church to be salt – Matthew 5:13.
• Church to be light – Matthew 5:14-16.
• Church called to be fishermen – Mark 1:16.
• Church has social and spiritual responsibilities – Isaiah 58:6-12, Proverbs 31:8, 9,
The Church is a Lifesaving Station

This video may be purchased from SermonSpice. It may be seen on Youtube at http://youtu.be/qSbMUvkHH5w
“Society is like a stream. If we don’t like the way it is going, we face a choice. We can either stand on the banks yelling and screaming about what is going wrong in the stream, or we can roll up our pant’s legs and wade in. We’ve decided at LifeBridge that we want to wade in and do whatever it takes to effect positive change.” - Rick Rusaw, Senior Pastor of LifeBridge Church, *The Externally-Focused Church*, page 49
How to Become a Community-Focused Church

- Determine to be a community-focused pastor, officers, and congregation.
- Know your community:
  - Study demographics
  - Listen to community leaders
  - Do community tour / survey
How to Become a Community-Focused Church

- Plan with community in mind:
  - Every department’s plan should be community focused.
  - Create a Service Opportunities Table.
## Service Opportunities

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How to Become a Community-Focused Church

- Get involved with “Good News” and “good deeds”
  - Social involvement and activism – Proverbs 31:8, 9.
  - Spiritual witness.
  - Keep Good News and good deeds balanced.
What role will your department play?
Awareness

- Communication Department
  Advertising, church brochure, radio and television spots, news releases, website, social media.
Relationship Building (Caring Ministries)

- Clerk
- Community Services
- Ushers and Greeters
- Disabilities Ministries
- Family Life
- Temperance
- Health
- Pathfinders
Discipleship (Sharing Ministries)

- Personal Ministries
- School
- Elders
- AYS
Indoctrination (Sharing Ministries)

- Personal Ministries
- School
- Elders
- AYS
- Stewardship
- Literature Evangelists
Reaping (Public Evangelism)

- Personal Ministries
- School
- Elders
- AYS
- Music Coordinator
Overcome the Four Big Hurdles

• Resistance to Change
  – Answer: This is not new. It was modeled by Jesus. More than 80% of His ministry was outside of the church walls.

• Finances
  – Answer: “Let your requests be known unto God . . . He will supply all your need.”

• Lack of Faith
  – Answer: We must exercise personal faith as individuals and collective faith as a board.

• Fear
  – Answer: Forget self and focus on others.
Each One, Reach One

• Lord, I commit myself to become a community-focused leader who shares God’s love in my community by word and deed.

• I will make this happen within the next six months by:
  – helping my church get to know our community,
  – planning all ministry with the community in mind,
  – and getting actively involved in the life of our community.