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Your Weekly Reaching New People Newsletter

How many people are your telling about your church?

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Excitement and Referrals are still the key

Prior to Covid-19, less than 3% of church-goers were inviting and bringing friends to their churches. The fear of saying, *"How would you like to come to church with me?"* seemed to send chills down the spines of most church members, and so they didn't invite anyone. Thus, before the pandemic, about 85% of churches were in decline and 94% were not keeping up with the population growth rate.

But then came the Coronavirus and churches moved to online worship services, book studies, and group meetings. I assumed that invitation would be much easier, for now all members had to do was send a Facebook or Zoom link and say, "Check in out". And for guests, it would seem so much easier to view church from their own kitchens, rather than having to enter a strange building with people they don't know.

However, despite several months of Covid, church members are still not inviting and about 82% of churches are in decline; just about the same as the pre-Covid rate. Why is this?

When people like a book they have read or a TV series they have binge-watched, they excitedly tell their friends. That reference or referral often results in the friend checking out the book or show. So the question I have for you is this: *"Are you excited about the worship, programs and mission efforts of your church?"*

- **If you are excited, then stop hiding your light under a bushel and recommend your church to someone and send them the link to the worship service or small group.**
- **If you are not excited about your church, then what needs to happen to change that? Does worship need to be more relevant? Do your leaders need to focus on the needs of the community and change what the church is doing? Do you need to rededicate yourself to prayer and scripture and re-ignite your faith? Staying lukewarm and silent will only further set your church on the road to decline.**

Growing churches are enthusiastic what God is doing through them, seeing lives changed and God's Kingdom expanding. Covid has produced communities full of people who are frightened, unsure and hurting. And we in the church have this incredible Good News.

In John, Chapter One, Philip went to Nathaniel and shared his excitement about Jesus and that is how Nathaniel became a follower. This kind of sharing is what has spread the Christian faith through the centuries.

Now, it's your turn. Who will you share with and invite this week? Who needs to hear of your excitement about being a disciple of Jesus?

Praying that you will move beyond your fear or apathy and invite today.

**Blessings,
Paul**



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