“Attracting and Assimilating Unchurched People in the 21st Century”

A Mission Portland Study

www.missionportland.org
Interview Question #1.1

What are the primary reasons that unchurched people are attracted to your church?
Primary Reasons for Attraction

Church Leaders (N=15)

- Pray Them In
- Cells/Small Group Outreach
- Ethnic Ministry
- Need-Meeting Classes
- Servant Evangelism - Caring for Needs
- Public Worship
- Visibility
- Outreach Events
- Children/Youth Ministry
- Friendly, Caring Atmosphere
- Preaching
- Personal Invitations

Number of Churches
What Attracted People to the Church?

New Christian Responses (N=45)

- Personal Invitations
- Visibility/Proximity
- Concern for Children
- Big Events/Productions
- Spiritually Seeking
- Advertising/Media
- Friendliness of Church
- Prayers of Family
- Preaching
- Saturday Night Service Option
- Number of Responses

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35

- Personal Invitations (31 responses)
- Visibility/Proximity (8 responses)
- Concern for Children (7 responses)
- Big Events/Productions (6 responses)
- Spiritually Seeking (4 responses)
- Advertising/Media (3 responses)
- Friendliness of Church (3 responses)
- Prayers of Family (3 responses)
- Preaching (2 responses)
- Saturday Night Service Option (1 response)
Reasons for Attracting Unchurched People

- Advertising/Media
- Spiritually Seeking
- Public Worship
- Visibility
- Outreach Events
- Children/Youth Ministry
- Friendly, Caring Atmosphere
- Preaching
- Personal Invitations

- Church Leaders (N=15)
- New Christians (N=45)
Why The Unchurched Stay

New Christian Responses (N=45)

- Friendliness/Caring: 24 responses
- Preaching: 14 responses
- New Relationships: 13 responses
- Worship/Music: 11 responses
- Small Group Involvement: 11 responses
- Atmosphere of Excitement: 8 responses
- Bible Emphasis: 7 responses
- Children/Youth Ministries: 7 responses
- Spiritual Growth: 6 responses
- Respect for Pastor: 5 responses
- Involvement Opportunities: 5 responses
- Felt Safe: 5 responses
- Visitor Follow-up: 4 responses
- Identify With The Culture: 4 responses
- Need Meeting Ministries: 3 responses
- Marriage Help: 2 responses
- Spiritual Growth: 2 responses
- New Christian Responses (N=45)
Interview Question #3.1

How do you attempt to connect newcomers into vital relationships in the church?
Connecting Newcomers Into Vital Relationships

Church Leaders (N=15)

- 1-1 Discipleship
- Pastoral Team
- Dinners for Eight
- Individual Members
- Believer's Service/Dinner
- Visitor Follow-up Ministry
- General Promotion
- Need Meeting Ministries
- Volunteer Ministry
- Adult Bible Classes
- Newcomer/Membership Class
- Small Groups

Number of Churches
How Unchurched People Have Formed Significant Friendships

New Christian Responses (N=45)

- Dinner/Believer's Service
- Family or Friends
- Choir
- Worship Services
- Pastors
- Retreats
- Membership Classes
- 1-1 Discipleship
- Adult Bible Classes
- New Believer Classes
- Volunteer Involvement
- Need-Meeting Ministries
- Small Group Involvement

Number of Responses
Connecting Newcomers Into Vital Relationships

- New Believer Classes
- Small Groups
- Newcomer/Membership Class
- Adult Bible Classes
- Volunteer Ministry
- Need Meeting Ministries
- General Promotion
- Visitor Follow-up Ministry
- 1-1 Discipleship
- Visitor Follow-up Ministry

Church Leaders (N=15) vs. New Christians (N=45)
Interview Question #4.1

In what way(s) do you help disciples become mature and grow in their faith?
What Has Helped With Spiritual Growth?

New Christian Responses (N=45)

- Small Groups
- Preaching/Corporate Worship
- New Believer Classes
- Membership/Formation Classes
- Adult Bible Classes
- 1-1 Discipleship
- Personal Bible Reading
- Time with a Pastor
- Christian Fellowship
- Family Support/Accountability
- Tapes
- Missions/Service
- Recovery Groups
- Retreats
- Personal Prayer
- Missions/Service
- Bible Institute
- Deliverance
- Tithing
- Deliverance
- Bible Institute

Number of Responses
Helping New Christians Grow

- Church Leaders (N=15)
- New Christians (N=45)

- Deliverance Course
- Church Seminary
- 1-1 Discipleship/Mentoring
- Christian Basics Class
- Personal Bible Reading
- Leadership Training
- Preaching/Corporate Worship
- Adult Education/Electives
- Formation Path
- Small Groups

Bar chart showing the percentage of Church Leaders and New Christians participating in various programs.
Interview Question #5.1

How soon are newcomers encouraged to consider serving in the church?
How Soon are New People Encouraged to Serve?
Church Leaders (N=15)
“Attracting and Assimilating Unchurched People in the 21st Century”

A Mission Portland Study

www.missionportland.org