

Pastoring Your City

Pastor Gerald McGinnis, Knoxville, TN

Pastoring your city can move from concept to reality through empowering your congregation and releasing them to do ministry. Pastoring your city is more than a theological reality; it is a liberating ministry. It is impossible for any single individual to pastor an entire city. Not only do you find the freedom to minister outside the local walls of the church, but this paradigm develops a model of ministry for your congregation and eventually some of their time will be spent ministering outside the local walls of worship. Ultimately, this draws the people in that receive ministry and the cycle is repeated.

I. Finding Significance

A. You may be successful, but are you significant?

1. Many people and organizations reach out.
2. Others reach up.
3. We must reach up with one hand and touch God, and with the other hand reach out and touch this hurting world.
4. One without the other is not adequate.
5. You can't biblically reach out without reaching up. You can't biblically reach up without reaching out.

B. What are God's thoughts toward the poor?

1. NIV mentions the poor 177 times.
2. KJV mentions the poor 205 times.
3. Leviticus 23:22 NIV
4. Leviticus 25:35 NIV
5. Deuteronomy 15:7-11 NIV
6. Deuteronomy 24:12-15 NIV
7. I Samuel 2:8 NIV
8. Isaiah 41:17 NIV
9. Isaiah 61:1 NIV
10. Proverbs 19:17 NIV
11. Exodus 22:22,23 NIV
12. Deuteronomy 10:17,18 NIV
13. Psalm 68:4,5 NIV
14. Psalm 146:9 NIV
15. Isaiah 1:17 NIV
16. I Timothy 5:3-4 NIV
17. James 1:27 NIV

18. The fatherless - widows - orphans - poor, that's just one reason we reach out!

19. Three Responsibilities for the Christian

- a) Look after orphans.
- b) Look after widows.
- c) Keep from being polluted by the world.

C. Four leading factors in church growth.

1. Facility
2. Worship
3. Children
4. Preaching, except for mega churches

II. Pastoring Your City

A. Pastoring your city scripturally.

1. Matthew 16:18 NKJV
2. Matthew 5:13, 14 NKJV
3. Matthew 25:34-40 NKJV
4. Luke 16:19-26 NKJV
5. Nehemiah 2:10 NIV
6. John 15:16

B. Can your city say this about you?

C. Did God send you to promote the welfare of your city?

1. Does your city know that your church exists?
2. Does your community know you care for them?

III. Working With Limited Resources

A. Your failure is not final.

B. NINE DOTS - Think outside the box, but not outside the Bible.

C. The power of Peer Resources.

D. Can you define what you need to change in your ministry?

IV. Transitioning from Maintenance to Missional

A. What is maintenance?

1. To keep or keep up; continue in or with; carry on, keep in original condition
2. To keep in existence or continuance

B. Three goals your church should have

1. Start Goals
2. Continue Goals
3. Stop Goals

C. What is missional?

1. A sending out or being sent out with authority to perform a special service
 - a) Is your mission from God?
 - b) Do you feel you have divine authority?
2. The special duty or function for which someone is sent as a messenger or representative. You represent God!

D. Is your ministry maintenance or missional? If you were moving to your city, would you attend the church you pastor?

E. Twelve Questions to identify your status.

F. Six Types of Churches.

1. Evangelism – (Willow Creek/Bill Hybels, Andy Stanley)
Encounter with God
2. Teaching – (Saddleback/Rick Warren, John McArthur)
Encounter with the Word of God
3. Community – (Vineyard Churches)
Encounter with others/relationships
4. Traditional – (James Kennedy)
Encounter with the past/heritage
5. Revival – (John Hagee; Rod Parsley)
Encounter with the Power of God
6. Renewal – (Jack Hayford)
Encounter with the Presence of God

V. Three Common Traps

- A. Believing that yesterday's solution will solve today's problem
- B. Assuming present trends will continue
- C. Neglecting the opportunities offered by future change

VI. Statistics for Pastors Today

- 1300 are fired every month
- 1200 leave the ministry every month
- 67% of spouses are dissatisfied with their marriages
- Divorce rates are up 65% in the last 20 years
- 65% have personal financial problems
- 67% do not have a close personal friend
- Only 50% complete their working years as pastors
- 67% of seminary graduates are quitting the ministry within five years of graduation

VII. Other Trends

- 50% who attend church on any given Sunday are not Christians, but have been attending that church for 10 years
- 65% of Christians will die without ever sharing their belief
- A half-trillion dollars spent in domestic ministry has resulted in no increase in the percentage of adult believers
- Through research, Bill Hybels of Willow Creek Church believes that churches will decrease in attendance yearly by 2.3% between now and the year 2015. A couple of years ago he fired 200 people from his staff who had slipped in, that had been hired to assist the lower level staff.

VIII. Pastoring Your City (physically)

- A. Releasing your church
- B. The church releasing you
- C. Networking with existing ministries and developing new Care Ministries
- D. Pastoring Your City manual

As we reflect on our previous statements, I realize all of these will not be applicable to your situation. I encourage you to glean from what we have discussed and the vision for the future for what God puts in your heart. Do not be satisfied with the maintenance ministry only, but become missional with your purpose and vision.