

A CHECKLIST FOR MINISTRY

By Bob Young

If I could begin again.... Seven things come to mind—made possible by an eighth.

Evangelism must be the unspoken, always present purpose of the church. Ministry must maintain an evangelistic spirit, influencing the lives of the members and of others—know how to evangelize, teach others to evangelize. Effective ministry depends on my influence in the lives of others and using that influence to bring people to Jesus!

Build relationships with everyone. Build relationships with the leaders, the members, with visitors, in the community. Relationships enable evangelism and ministry. Relationships are essential in ministry.

Make sure a **solid discipleship plan** is in place. This may be done through the education program and the Bible classes, in small groups, or in individualized training. Make sure that discipleship training is of the highest quality. Every Christian must continue to learn and to grow in knowledge and in grace. Every Christian must learn how to do God's will in life. Discipleship is equipping, mentoring, walking along side.

Make sure something happens in **worship**, facilitate spiritual growth, facilitate the vertical relationship that sustains faith. Develop the members, develop the membership as they learn and appreciate their identity as the body of Christ of earth. Quality worship is paramount, invest the necessary time to preach well consistently, bringing the truth of Scripture to touch the world where we live.

Encourage mutuality! Some call this fellowship, but the shared spiritual life is deeper than sharing lots of meals. How is life shared? Encourage spontaneous fellowship and sharing. The tension between quantity time and quality time says that genuine fellowship depends on multiplying opportunities to share life. Listen to “group theory” and try to get every member involved in at least seven groups. Make fellowship a reality for everyone—not just those at the core.

Every member a **minister and servant**. Reaching this goal demands thoughtful, intentional, and creative development of ministry and service opportunities, mentoring, training. Everyone has a part, everyone has a role.

Keeping evangelism at the forefront will drive **biblical mission work that brings multitudes of the lost to Jesus!** Maintain the focus, make sure the church never forgets that its primary purpose is saving souls.

Perhaps I should have said it first. It is the most important point. I have put it last because it energizes and empowers all the above points. If I could begin again, I would be more diligent to bathe everything in **prayer**. I would seek fresh models, opportunities, and excuses for prayer. I would make it easy, frequent, and constant in the life of the church.