



Summary

13/7/10

Principles of Church Growth (May)

- If churches grow through word of mouth then growth comes to a halt before everyone is converted because the church runs out of “enthusiasts” who recruit others because they fail to reproduce enough enthusiasts
- In longer term a church can be sustained but reach a fixed level if the activity of the enthusiasts exceeds a level governed by births, deaths and now many leave church.

Different Expressions of Church (May/June)

- An example was given of how mum’s and toddlers, can lead into a mid-week messy church, which in turn can lead to a Sunday worshipping group.
- Growth of groups limited if inflow is constant, e.g. relying on outside factors for people to come.
- If a larger group attracts more people through positive word of mouth then growth can be steady but will cease when this effect has saturated.
- Transition from a mums and toddlers group to something more spiritual like messy church is sensitive to the spiritual content of how messy church is sold in mum’s and toddlers. Too little and there few will join messy church, too much and people may leave mums and toddlers. There is an optimum position.
- There is a general issue of how “spiritual” or “different” the Christian group is from the group outside church.

What is Church (June)

- People who attend
- People who attend and contribute – commitment
- Kingdom – wherever Jesus is working/rules/is Lord – the people who he uses

Given the Above, What Constitutes Growth (June)

- Numbers of people
- Quality of their lives
- Quality of their community