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# Introduction to Church Revitalization

## Audio Resource Notes

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### Personal Introduction

#### Why I am passionate about Church Revitalization:

1. Many people need to hear the gospel in their communities and will not hear it unless a local church is revitalized.
  - a. Many churches are plateaued or declining and need revitalization.
  - b. There are many valuable facilities and ministry assets waiting to be utilized.
2. I've experienced the challenges of church revitalization personally, and I want to teach others to avoid the same problems and heartache
  - a. For a while I wondered what was wrong with me, until I understood that the problems many churches face are repeated and systemic, and they must be addressed.

### The Need for Church Revitalization

- For the spread of the gospel in our nation
- For the stewardship of church resources
- For the glory of God

### The Challenge of Church Revitalization

- Church Revitalization is hard because it requires a church to change.
- Many pastors have some idea what they would like their church to become but are unsure how to navigate a path to get there.

### Theological Principles for Church Revitalization

1. God calls Leaders to Lead
  - Servant leadership is God's design (Jesus, Moses, Peter...) (Jdg. 5:2,9)
2. God calls Leaders to Lead the Church with an Outward Focus
  - In Obedience to the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20)
3. God calls Leaders to be Strategic in their Leadership
  - God's basic law of life is that "you reap what you sow" (Gal. 6:7-8)

*"As important and central as is the ministry of the Word of God, the thoughtful pastor/elder/overseer will devote time and energy to casting a vision, figuring out the steps for getting there, building the teams and structures needed for discharging ministry and training others, building*

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*others up, thinking through the various ways in which the gospel can be taught at multiple levels to multiple groups within the church, how to extend faithful evangelism and church planting, how to engage the surrounding world as faithful believers, and much more. Just because a person is an able preacher does not necessarily make him an able pastor/elder/overseer. Indeed, if he shows no propensity for godly oversight, then no matter how good a teacher he may be, he is not qualified to be a pastor/teacher/overseer.”<sup>1</sup>*

- D. A. Carson

## **The Church Revitalization Change Process**

Church Revitalization requires leading change in your church. Below is the nine step *Church Revitalization Change Process*, that I have developed based on the research of church revitalization experts and change author John Kotter. We will focus on one step in the change process at each meeting.

### The Church Revitalization Change Process:

1. Start with Prayer, Confession, and Trust in God
2. Prepare for Pain and Suffering
3. Create Urgency by Defining Reality
4. Build Credibility
5. Build a New Dominant Coalition
6. Develop a Vision
7. Communicate the Vision
8. Implement Changes
9. Normalize the Changes

Note that Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are all preparatory steps before actually *making* changes in Step 8 and *normalizing* those changes in Step 9. Many church leaders start at step 6, 7, or 8, and the change meets heavy resistance because they have not done the preparatory steps.

## **FEB Central Church Revitalization Networks**

Our first Church Revitalization Network was conducted in Toronto in 2017. Our second network ran in 2018-2019 in Cambridge with eight FEB Central pastors participating.

In September 2019, we started two new Revitalization networks in Cobourg and Sault Ste. Marie. For more information about connecting with an existing network or starting a new network in your area, please contact Tim Strickland.

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226-962-5019

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<sup>1</sup> D. A. Carson, “Some Reflections on Pastoral Leadership,” *Themelios* 40, no. 2 (2015): 197, accessed May 10, 2016, <http://themelios.thegospelcoalition.org/article/some-reflections-on-pastoral-leadership>.