

## The Purpose Driven Church: *The Growing Church*

Scripture: 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.<sup>7</sup> So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 1 Corinthians 3: 6,7

Purpose is defined as the intention of a thing. Purpose originates from the word proposal. *Proposal* is stating something for consideration.

Church growth is natural result of a healthy church. Healthy church are built on its purpose.

*Corinth* was the location of this lesson. It was the capital city in Southern Greece. Corinth was known as a wealthy, worldly place. It was known for material prosperity.

Church is about growth. Growth is process. Process is about change. Since the church is a living organization, it is natural for it to grow, if it is healthy.

### STAGES OF GROWTH

#### **Stage One** – Planteth

*Paul was the planter*. Paul is viewed as a catalyst leader. A catalyst leader is someone who ignites action in others. Catalyst leaders always lead change. He planted the gospel seeds. Seeds are the word of God. Luke 8:11.

Planteth is the Greek word *phuteuo* which means to instill doctrine, yet being fixed in one place.

#### **Stage Two** – Watereth

*Apollos was the Irrigator*. He complimented Paul's message of Truth.

The irrigator saturates the hearts and minds of the people with more teaching.

Watereth is the Greek word to care, and saturate one's mind through teaching of the word.

#### **Stage Three** – Increase

*God is the Increaser*. This stage is the harvest, or the abundance. We can have all of the programs in church to build the growth, etc.; however, God is the one who gives the increase. It is the Holy Spirit the causes transformation in people's hearts that leads to conversion. The results of increase come from God. God causes things to grow up to maturity. God will give the increase. Increase is growth.

Increase means to caused to grow up, to become greater. It means to enlarge, to spread, or is a continual development in life. This is a non stop process.

Church grows warmer through fellowship.  
Church grows deeper the discipleship.  
Church grows stronger the worship.  
Church grows broader through ministry.  
Church grows larger through evangelism.

All lasting change and revitalization begins as we acknowledge dependence on God, and ask Him to do what only He can do. Revitalization is to make something active, healthy, and energetic again.

Let us continue to do prayer stretching across the globe, not just praying for souls, and situations in Columbus, Ohio, but all over the world.

*Dr. Daphne Harris, Minister*

*Saturday, August 12, 2017  
6:00 pm*