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MISSIONAL COMMUNITY: CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO A MISSIONAL LIFESTYLE

Quotes

“...we had a contingency plan for numerical failure... we weren't prepared for numerical success.”

“We passed the 5,000 mark very fast. It wasn't all good. I realized that even though we'd grown numerically, I realized that in many things we were really, really bad.”

“Look at the people in your church and ask the question... ‘Are they engaging with one another... are they engaging in Biblical, real community?’

Notes

As your church grows larger, you must also learn to grow smaller.

Even big churches stink at some things. The bigger your church... the more you stink at something.

At Austin Stone Church, they formed ‘community groups’ that met in homes for Bible Study. They had hoped that community would form. People signed up in droves but they were a complete failure. The church was growing but they still stunk at compelling people into community and relationships.

What causes people to grow?

How did Jesus build community? He called people (His disciples) unto Himself and to his mission.

Austin Stone then changed their small group focus to be formed around mission. Each group looked for a need in their community that they could rally around.

What we learned: When we aimed simply for community; we got neither community nor mission. But when we aimed for mission; we got both community AND mission almost every single time.

Links

[The Austin Stone Community Church](#)