

Growing a Strong Church

God is glorified with a church that is strong, healthy and growing. He wants the church to experience spiritual growth as well as numerical growth. Acts 2.47 reads, “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” What can we do to make sure that Larchmont Church of God is a healthy, growing church? The following are some ingredients that I think will help our church grow.

First, we need to pray earnestly and regularly for the growth of our church. Prayer is the key that unlocks the storehouse of God’s blessings. Through prayer we invite God to work in our church and to minister to those who come. So pray that the Presence of God is manifested in our services and that new people experience his love through us. Pray also that God would use me as pastor to preach messages that are relevant and life changing. Without prayer, we can do everything else right and still fail.

Secondly, we need to cultivate an atmosphere of celebration. A boring church will never attract anyone to Christ. When we come together to worship, we need to come with expectancy and praise. Jesus said, “Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18.20). The Presence of Jesus alone is enough to cause us to rejoice. There is nothing more contagious to new people than an atmosphere of joy. So come to church with a smile and with a sense of excitement.

Thirdly, we need to be on the lookout for new people and welcome them in a friendly manner. An unfriendly church simply will not grow. One of the things people often mention when asked what drew them to a particular church is that the people there were friendly. The church is not a country club. It is not simply for the members to hang out and be catered to. The church is a place to welcome new people and to lead them to Jesus Christ.

Lastly, we need to be open to change. All growth involves change. A four-year-old child looks a lot different and acts a lot different than a sixteen-year-old teenager. As we grow we must be willing to change and adapt to new ways of doing things. Many churches today are stuck in a culture and mindset that best resembles the 1950s or 60s. We now live in the 21st century and so we should minister to people in light of this reality. The message never changes, but how we present that message and package it does. Vance Havner once said, “The last

seven words of a dying church are: ‘We’ve never done it that way before.’” Let’s be a growing church, not a dying church.