

As I consider my life as a Christian, I have come to realize, most congregational growth is a result of Christians moving from one area to another. Such growth is valuable, but such growth should not be the standard. Over the past couple of years, I have challenged myself to be more evangelistic and it has been my desire for the congregation that I serve to do the same.

I have done this in three ways:

1. I preach sermons centered around the importance of evangelism, and the need for all Christians (not merely the preacher) to be evangelistic.
2. I encourage church members to build relationships with individuals outside of the church; doing so causes spiritual conversation to be less pervasive and awkward.
3. I periodically schedule opportunities for church members to gather and study in small groups, in public places like Panera Bread, Books-A-Million, or Starbucks. While working in Chattanooga, Bible studies were had on the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga campus. Such opportunities provide a way for Christians and non-Christians alike to gather in an informal environment to, as Paul told Timothy—give attention to the public reading of Scripture and to teaching (1 Timothy 4:13). Such studies are generally advertised via Facebook and by word of mouth.

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