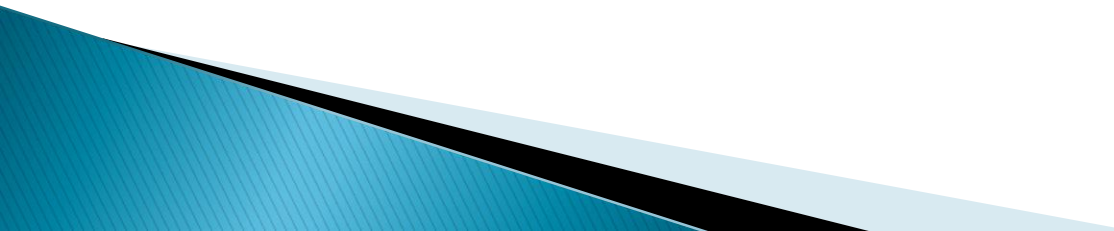


# Welcome!

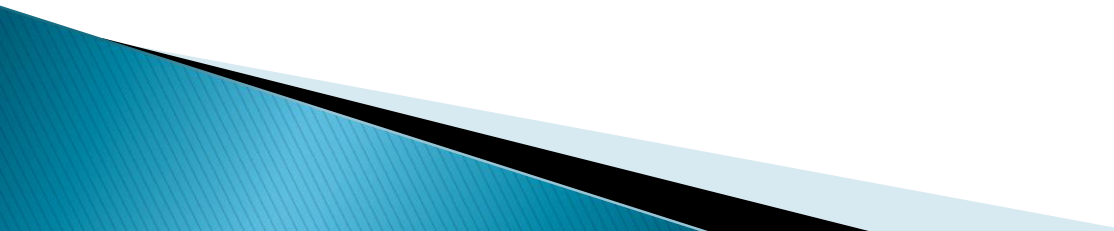
So Glad You Came!



# Vital

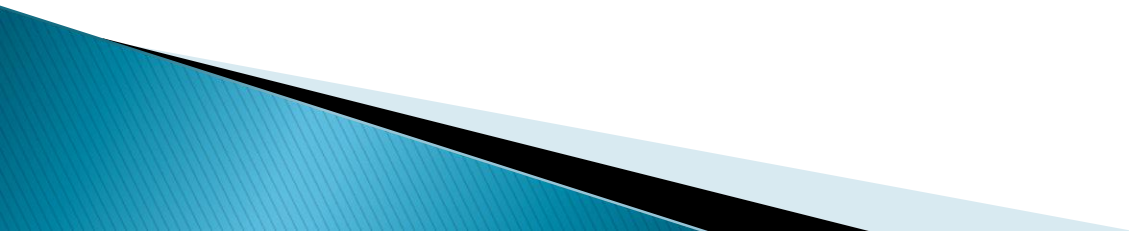
Can it be?

# Tonight's Schedule

- ▶ Overview – 30 minutes
  - ▶ Large Group Discussion – 20 Minutes
  - ▶ Break – 15 Minutes
  - ▶ Mix & Vision – 25 Minutes
  - ▶ Resource Presentation – 20 Minutes
  - ▶ Prayer – 10 Minutes
- 

# Step 1 – Overview

## 30 Minutes

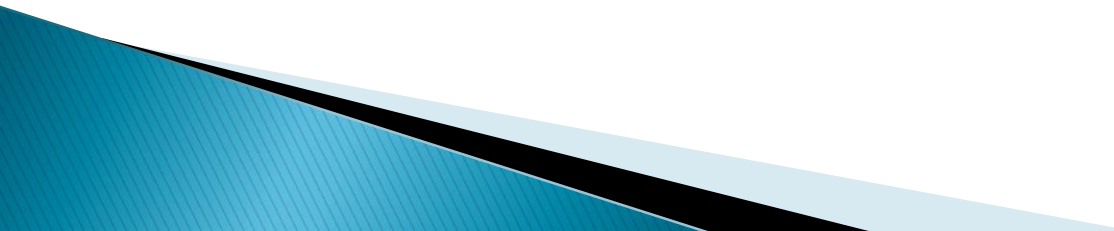


# The Study

## Purpose

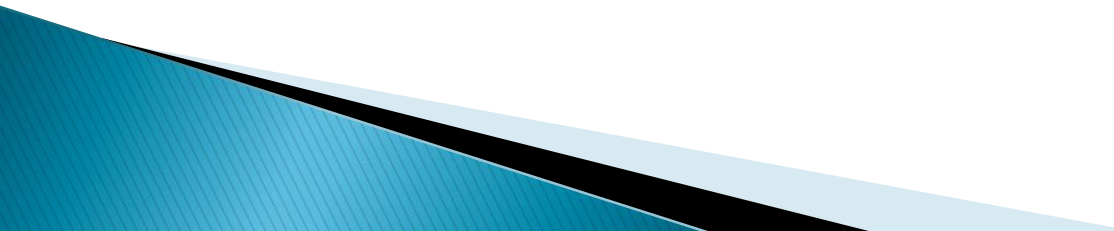
To create a strategy for our rural churches to more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ.

# Realities

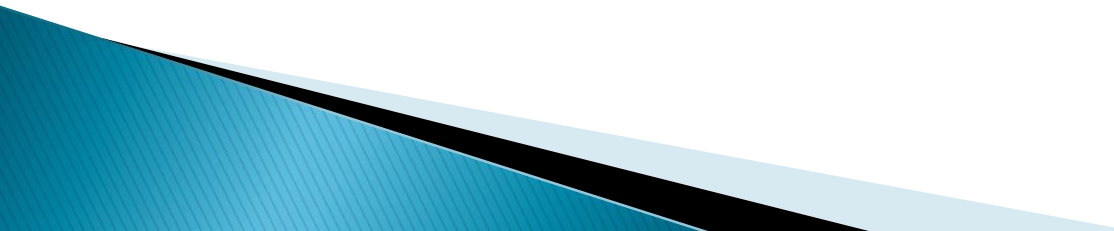
- ▶ Conversion rate is low in spite of many who are still lost
  - ▶ Ministry forms have not been changed
  - ▶ Little hope exists to reach the truly lost
- 

# Obstacles to Overcome

- ▶ Existing conditions
  - Declining populations
  - Financial crisis
  - Distance and transience
- ▶ Present approaches
  - Designed to please membership
  - Mostly within the “four walls”
  - Too many activities resulting in mediocrity

- ▶ Lack of vision
    - Isolation
    - Discouragement
    - Fear of deeper commitment
  - ▶ Self-defeating attitudes
    - Status quo
    - Unbiblical view of the pastor
    - Unresolved conflicts
    - “glass walls”
    - Resistance to learning
- 

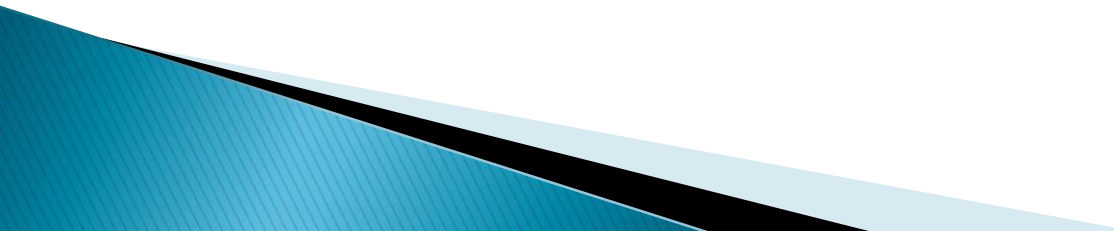
## Yet, there is hope!

- ▶ There is great opportunity – up to 50% of rural residents do not attend church regularly
  - ▶ Small churches can change their approaches quickly
  - ▶ Rural communities have ready-made relationship connections
  - ▶ The power of the Gospel has not diminished.
- 

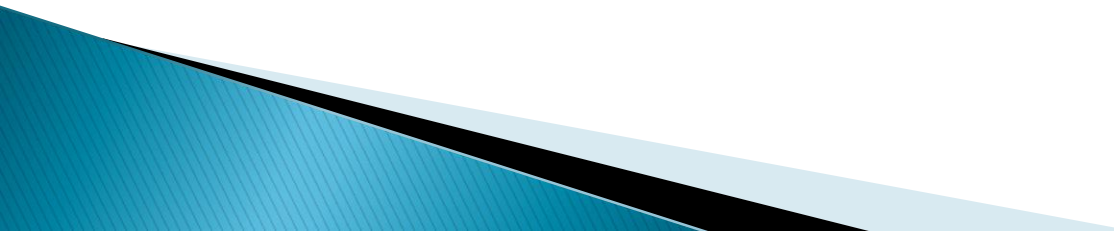
# The “*dispensable*” principle

23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. John 12:23–26 (NIV)

## What will it take?

- ▶ A community of believers who love God with every fiber of their being...
  - ▶ made up of people who love those who need help at a level equal to their self love who are...
  - ▶ clearly sold out both corporately and individually to help others become Jesus-followers.
- 

## Where changes need to be made

- ▶ Release people for ministry
  - ▶ Replace quiet resistance with conversation
  - ▶ Expect your pastor to lead the way
  - ▶ Assess and willingly take risks
  - ▶ Emphasize what is simple and reproducible
- 

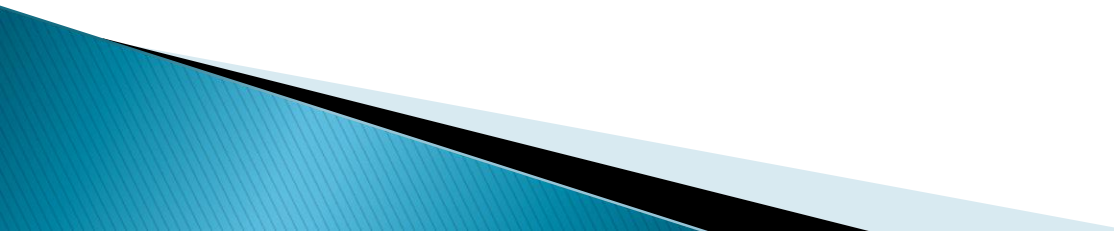
## Four Alternatives

- ▶ Change the way you “do” church
- ▶ For churches unable to support a pastor and without teaching elders, DVD option
- ▶ Move to a House Church approach
- ▶ Share a Pastor

*Note: Resources listed in report document*

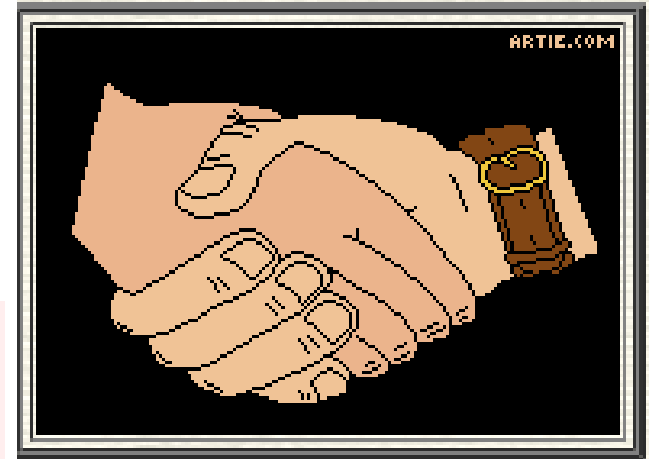
# Step 2 – Large Group Discussion

## 20 Minutes

- ▶ Areas of opportunity for ministry multiplication in their sphere of influence (compute how many miles in each direction in which the church has direct influence)
  - ▶ Things that are already being done to multiply impact outside the walls of the church
- 

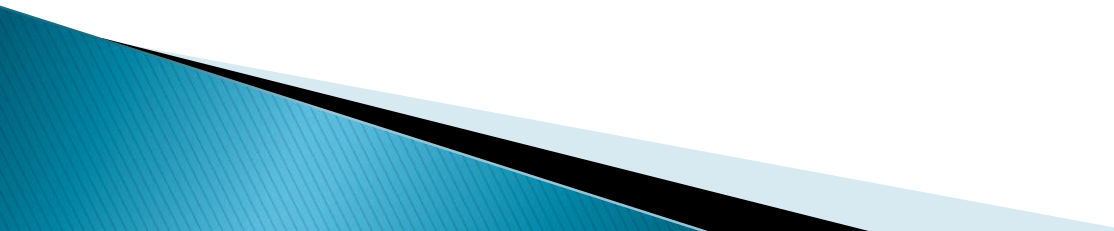
# Step 3 – Break & Fellowship

## 15 Minutes



# Step 4 – Mix and Vision

## 25 Minutes

- ▶ Ask and answer questions of each other regarding present efforts to reach into their communities
  - ▶ Brainstorm regarding additional possibilities
  - ▶ Interact about possible partnership between churches represented and/or organizations or churches from other denominations/independants in the community
- 

# Step 5 – Presentation of Tools

## 20 Minutes



Home

The Dream

The Revolution

The Mission

The People

The Alliance

The Tools

## Praxis

The Praxis Center for Church Development

### Welcome to the Free Stuff Page!

Through time we hope to fill this page with lots of good stuff for you to take and run with. Here is the latest from Praxis:

#### [The Praxis Manifesto](#)

Every revolution needs a manifesto - so here is ours!

#### [Redrawing the Map For Ministry](#)

Presented to the North American Baptist Conference by Mike Perkinson, October 2009

#### [Organic Leadership Development and Assessment in Community](#)

Presented at The Gathering 2008 (ChurchSmart Resources) in Largo, FL, November 2008 - (Session 3)

#### [InFusion](#)

Presented at The Gathering 2008 (ChurchSmart Resources) in Largo, FL, November 2008 - (Session 5)

#### [The Jesus Process for Evangelism and Discipleship](#)

Presented at The Gathering 2008 (ChurchSmart Resources) in Largo, FL, November 2008 - (Session 9)

The Alliance

The Tools

NCD

Contact

Trilogy Gateway

Endorsements

### **[The Jesus Process for Evangelism and Discipleship](#)**

Presented at The Gathering 2008 (ChurchSmart Resources) in Largo, FL, November 2008 - (Session 9)

### **[Engage](#)** - Tom Johnston

Presented at the Northern New England Foursquare District Conference, Pembroke, NH, November 2008

### **[A Movement Begins PowerPoint - Mike Perkinson](#)**

Presented at the Evangelical Lutheran Church Planting Conference in Phoenix, AZ, April 2008

### **[The Solutions Workshop - Developing Evangelism & Discipleship in Every Church](#)**

#### **[PowerPoint and Workbook](#)**

In Partnership with **Vision New England**, presented by David Midwood, Tom Johnston and Keith Tolley, February 2008 (updated version May 2008)

### **[The Pathway of a Disciple Powerpoint - Tom Johnston](#)**

Presented to the Free Methodist Church, June 2007

### **[Organic Church Planting Powerpoint, Congress 2007 - Tom Johnston and Mike Perkinson](#)**

Presented at Pre-Congress 2007, Boston, Massachusetts with Vision New England

### **[Irreducible Core Values Workshop PowerPoint - Tom Johnston](#)**

Core values workshop with the Second Baptist Church in Sanbornton, NH - September 2006.

### **[The Irreducible Core Sermon Notes and PowerPoint](#)** (zipped)

The Irreducible Core is the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus' command to love God, love others and make disciples.



**Organic Church Planting PowerPoint - Tom Johnston**

Presented at the New England United Methodist Church Conference in Woonsocket, RI, in September 2006 by Tom Johnston

**Organic Church Planting PowerPoint - Mike Perkinson**

Presented at the North American Baptist Conference at their Church Planters Summit, May 2006 by Mike Perkinson.

**Radical Rediscovery PowerPoint - Developing Authentic Christian Communities in the Post-Christian West**

Presentation to the Free Methodist Church New England Conference, June 2006.

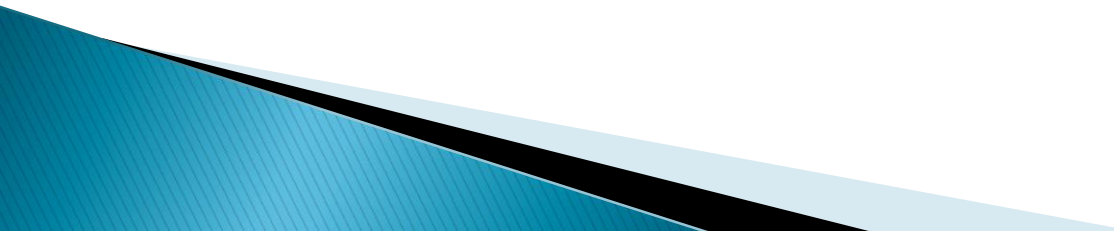
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# Books

- ▶ **Books by Johnston & Perkinson (PRAXIS)**
  - ▶ **Books Related to Natural Church Development by Christian Schwartz**
  - ▶ **Books About Organic/Simple Church/House Church by Neil Cole**
  - ▶ **Books about Organizational Process**
  - ▶ **Books that Help with Conflict**
  - ▶ **Books on Prayer Strategies**
- 

- ▶ **Books on Leadership (Rob McLeland's top choices)**

# Assessment Opportunities

The Natural Church Development process can help a church address areas of needed change positively.

Remember, a little change goes a long way.



# Coaching

Coaches are available to pastors and church leaders who want to find out what God wants them to do and then do it.

# Step 6 – Pray