

100% Connecting Altar-call Responders & Prayer-Partners

One common problem pastors face is a good problem...namely
too large of an altar response! (akin to "growing pains")

The early church in Acts 6 faced a growth problem they easily solved. On Pentecost, 3000 were added (Acts 2:41), and then Acts 4:4 says the early Church grew to 5000!

PROBLEM: Feeding the increased # of widows & needy found the Greeks complaining against the Jews (Acts 6:1) **SOLUTION:** In Acts 6:3, the twelve directed: "Choose 7 men for a" ...*new care-delivery system*" of deacon-care. Acts 6:7 happily reads: "the number of disciples multiplied greatly." The new system was "*intentional care*" through additional, *intentionally directed*, specific care-givers. The solution was different...it was new.... it was *intentional*....and it worked!

What they did was *re-system* their previous "care delivery" system...
to better manage the tremendous growth they had experienced!

A common altar-call problem . . . & solution :

A pastor gives the altar call. There's a flood of responders: far more than the expected #... respond to God's Spirit. The altars are flooded!

One Solution: Prayer lines:

Prayer lines are commonly used. Whatever the # of altar prayer-teams, there are one or two *prayer-line facilitators*. All those coming for prayer... line-up (backing "up" the aisle(s))...and are calmly & systematically directed by prayer-line 'traffic directors'(1 by 1)... to the next available altar prayer-team.

*However, when ALL the church family comes forward ALL AT ONCE...
... even m-o-r-e intentional "Connection" is needed...*

When this happens, pastors often ask their congregation to come up and pray...perhaps saying:
"Now we'd like brothers & sisters from our church family to come join these who've come up for prayer. We'd ideally like one prayer-partner to team up with each person who has come for prayer. Saints, please go forward now...and join these waiting for prayer in the altars.

While the intent is good, the intentionality can be improved by this simple addition:

One way to *intentionally* improve the "Connection %" ... to 100% is this:

- A) *As the saints are asked to come forward to link up 1-on-1 with those at the altar. . .*
- B) *The pastor can give directions for "100% connection" . . . by . . . asking:*

"So that no one is missed . . . and every person is found by a prayer-partner,

*"If you came forward for prayer, **please raise your hand...***

***a-n-d... please keep your hand up.** . . until someone from our*

congregation specifically joins you, stands by you as your prayer-partner."

This church-health tip is from JGM Ministries, 3450 Palmer Drive, Suite 4-#302, Cameron Park, CA. 95682 www.gainsbrugh.org
Please email us your results (& other great ideas) to share with more pastors on solutions you've found to common church problems.