



WEST COAST  
CHINESE CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE  
西岸中國基督徒聯會

# Engaging Unbelievers at Church

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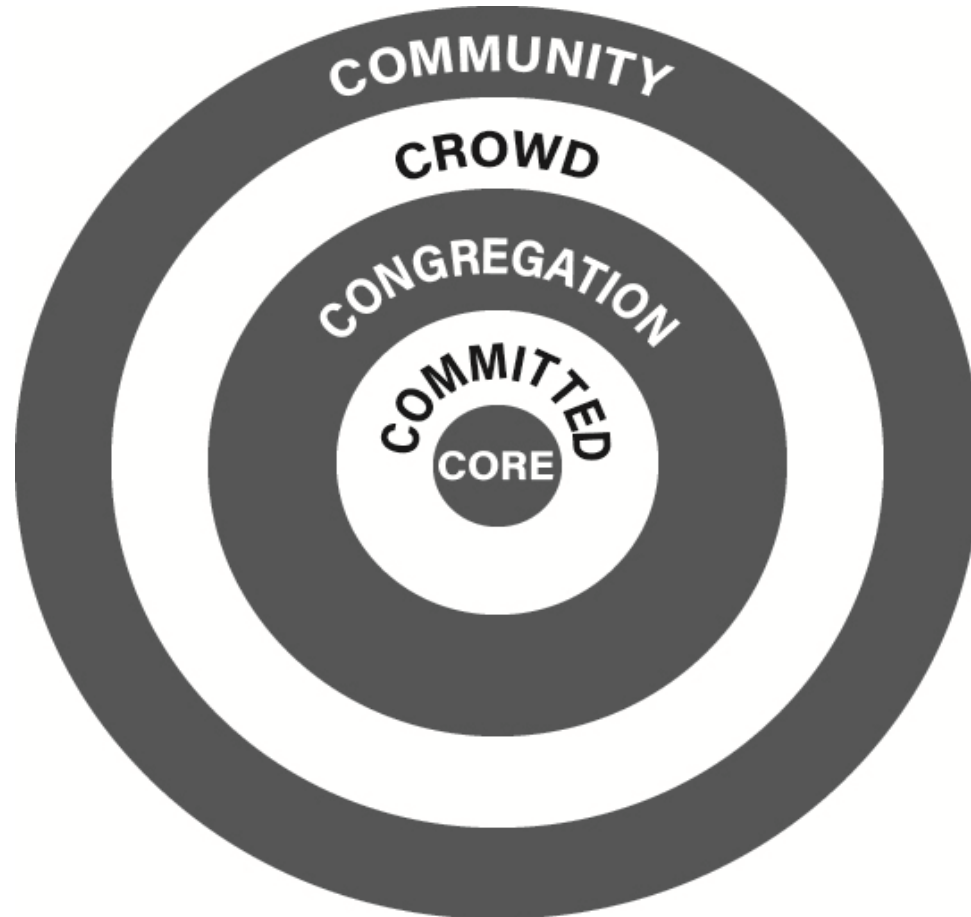
# Let's share our thoughts

- ▶ Let's share our background -

# What is Engaging?

- ▶ “Engaging” can be defined as the initial process of discipleship used to encourage unbelievers to continue coming back local church until they see and understand God’s power, accept Jesus as their Savior and commit themselves to the local church through membership.

**Move people from outer circle to inner circle**



# I. RETURN

# Let's share our thoughts

- ▶ Please share one of your experiences of going to a new church?
- ▶ What make you stay in a church?

# What is “RETURN”

Move First-time Guests to  
Second-time Guests

# First-time Guests' Feeling

- ▶ The feelings people get when people are introduced to new people or new places, whether positive or negative, are based on instinct rather than reasoning.
- ▶ We have about **SEVEN** minutes



# Make First-time Guests Feel Welcome

- ▶ Greeted
- ▶ Directed
- ▶ Treated
- ▶ Seated

# Look for “hurried”, “Quick” and “Ran”

<sup>1</sup> The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.

# Look for “hurried”, “Quick” and “Ran”

<sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.” “Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.” <sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

# Look for “hurried”, “Quick” and “Ran”

<sup>7</sup> Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. (Genesis 18:1-8)

# God loves Guests

- ▶ The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:34)
- ▶ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, (Ephesians 2:19)

# From First-time Guests to Second-time Guests

- ▶ 3F: Fast, Friendly and Functional
- ▶ How can you implement 3F in your engaging process?

# From First-time Guests to Second-time Guests

- ▶ Only a quarter mentioned worship at all, and only 12 percent mentioned anything about music (that figure dropped to only 3 percent when we isolated the top third of churches most effective with young people). So what do they talk about when they describe their church? Overwhelmingly, nearly 1 in 3 share about its warmth.

# From First-time Guests to Second-time Guests

- ▶ See how Jesus prepared the Last Supper - “The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples? He will show you a **LARGE ROOM UPSTAIRS, ALL FURNISHED...**” (Luke 22:11-12)



# II. RELATIONSHIP

# What is “RELATIONSHIP”

Move Second-time Guests to  
Regular Attenders

# From Second-time Guests to Regular Attenders

- ▶ Church growth consultant Lyle Schaller said: the more friends a person has in a congregation, the less likely that person is to become inactive or leave the church.
- ▶ Andy Stanley: The Church is a family expecting guests

# The Son of Man came \_\_\_\_\_

- ▶ Luke 19:10 - answer a “why” question
- ▶ Mark 10:45 - answer a “what” question
- ▶ Matthew 11:19 - answer a “how” question

# Basic Element of “Relationship”

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:1-2)

# Radical Inclusion

One Sunday morning Gandhi decided that he would visit one of the Christian churches in Calcutta. Upon seeking entrance to the church sanctuary, he was stopped at the door by the ushers. He was told he was not welcome, nor would he be permitted to attend this particular church as it was for high-caste Indians and whites only. He was neither high caste, nor was he white.

With this act, Gandhi rejected the Christian faith, never again to consider the claims of Christ. It was due to this experience that Gandhi later declared, “I’d be a Christian if it were not for the Christians.””

# Radical Inclusion

- ▶ Jesus was accused of being a “*glutton and a drunkard.*” (Luke 7:34)
- ▶ <sup>20</sup> They shall say to the elders, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a *glutton and a drunkard.*” <sup>21</sup> Then all the men of his town are to stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid. (Deuteronomy 21:20-21)

# Rainer Scale

	Percentage of the total unchurched population	Description
U5 (Antagonistic)	5%	They are ignorant about Christianity
U4 (Resistants)	21%	They think church is relevant and salvation of Christianity is exclusive
U3 (Leaners)	36%	They are waiting for something to push them one way or the other
U2 (Seekers)	27%	They are friendly toward Christianity and think that Christians are loving and generous
U1 (Waiters)	11%	They have some positive church background but have displaced priorities



# Compassion

Pope Benedict ventured where no pope has gone before on Friday when he answered questions on an Italian television program - and was stumped by the first. A seven-year-old Japanese girl, Elena, asked the pope, “I am very frightened because the house where I felt safe really shook a lot and many children my age have died. I cannot go to play in the park. I want to know: why do I have to be so afraid? Why do children have to be so sad?”

# Compassion

Benedict admitted: “I also have the same questions: why is it this way? Why do you have to suffer so much while others live in ease? And we do not have the answers, but we know that Jesus suffered as you do, an innocent, and that the true God who is revealed in Jesus is by your side.”

# Cultivate Relationship

- ▶ Jesus fed the five thousand to create influence and then He said - “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life.” (John 6:27)
- ▶ How can you effectively lead people from where they are to where they should be?

# Communication - Grace and Truth

- ▶ In the story of the woman who was caught in adultery. “Let anyone of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”
- ▶ “Go now and leave your life of sin.”
- ▶ Challenge is not avoidable.

# **III. RESPONSIBILITY**

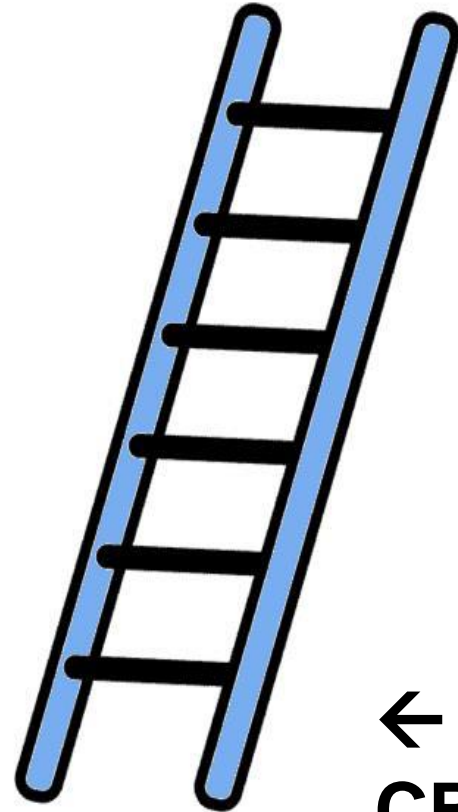
# What is “RESPONSIBILITY”

Move Regular Attenders to  
Growing Attenders

# From Regular Attenders to Growing Attenders

Rick Warren notes in the Purpose-Driven Church: A number of studies have shown that the way people join an organization greatly influences how they function in that organization after joining. Therefore, the manner in which people join your church will determine their effectiveness as members for years to come.

# Ladder Principle



← **First Step is for non-  
CBMC member Christians**



# Unbelievers want to see ACTIONS

“Pastor, if I raise my finger, will God know which one I’m going to raise even before I raise it?” Thirteen-year-old Steve attended church every week with his parents. This particular Sunday, he had stayed after the worship service to ask his pastor this pressing question. The pastor replied, “Yes, God knows everything.” Then Steve pulled out a Life magazine cover depicting two children tormented by starvation.

# Unbelievers want to see ACTIONS

He asked the logical follow-up, “Well, does God know about this and what’s going to happen to those kids?” The pastor gave a similar response, “Steve, I know you don’t understand, but yes, God knows about that.” Steve was not satisfied with the pastor’s answer to his question. He walked out of his congregation that day and never again worshiped at a Christian church.

# Let's share our thoughts

What can your church do to show love and help to the neighbors?