2019 NURTURE AND RETENTION SUMMIT

Nurture Through Service
Creating opportunities that strengthen faith

by Fylvia Fowler Kline
Greek Unemployment Rate Fell to 18 Pct in December 2018

By ANA  March 7, 2019

FILE - People sit and walk on the steps of central Syntagma Square in front of the Greek Parliament, in Athens, on Monday, Jan. 28, 2019. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)
India unemployment rate highest in 45 years: Report

The jobless rate stands at 6.1 percent, a local newspaper reports, citing an official survey withheld by the government.

31 Jan 2019

Hundreds of thousands of people have lost jobs in small businesses since a national sales tax was introduced in July 2017 [File: Mahesh Kumar/AP]
South Africa has a jobs crisis. In the fourth quarter of 2018, 6.14 million people were out of work, an unemployment rate of 27.1%, which is one of the highest rates in the world, along with sub-Saharan African countries like Lesotho, Mozambique and Namibia.
A Predictor of Health

When the unemployment rate creeps over 7%, it’s crisis time.

Yet we’re not shaken when the “non-involvement” rate of the average church is at 80%. The higher the rate of non-involvement, the greater the loss of members.

In the average church only 20% of its members are active participants and ambassadors of their faith; the rest are mere attendees.
Service: A Catalyst for Discipleship, Nurture and Retention

- They stick around
- They give more
- They serve more
- They grow spiritually stronger

The measure of a church is not in the attendance on Sabbath but in the transformational effect it has on its community.
Service in a Missional Context

- Rendered within or towards a relationship
- Fulfills a need or a dream
- Done with regularity
- Happens in a neutral, comfortable, open environment

“Jesus made clear that our ability to love well and to cultivate real relationships identify us as his disciples.”
—Francis Chan, Multiply
“Being a Christian isn’t an isolated experience but a life lived in community and service.”

—Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, The Externally Focused Church
The Community: An Extension of the Church

1. Show up and make friends
2. Get connected through service
3. Make yourself available at all times

“Meet people WHERE THEY ARE, and take them where Jesus wants them to go.”

—Todd Engstrom
Think Worshiper, Family—Not Visitor

1. Befriend them
2. Connect them to others
3. Plug them into the church

Worshipers who are not PLUGGED INTO the life of the church within their first year either leave the first year or become stagnant attendees.
Discipling Like Amazon.com

Based on a lifestyle of service practiced within relationships

1. Connect them to Christ
2. Connect them to their calling
3. Connect them to one another
4. Connect them to their community

“Every Christian is a SENT ONE. There is no such thing as an unsent Christian.”
—Alan Hirsch
“God helping you: Take your EVERYDAY, ORDINARY LIFE—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walk-around life—and place it before God as AN OFFERING.”

—ROMANS 12:1–2, THE MESSAGE
Reclaim (like You’ve Lost Your Best Friend)

- The leader of the search team is the one who knows them best
- Reconnect and rebuild the relationship
- Resolve issues when and if appropriate
- Use their skills in non-religious events and needs
- Keep them abreast of and invite them to church- and religious- events
- Preserve the relationship regardless of the outcome

“SHARE LIFE, not INFORMATION”
—Francis Chan, Multiply
God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade.

Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ.

Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance.

Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation.

2 Corinthians 2:14