



Surveys and More Surveys

It may seem to some of you as though we survey all the time. Indeed, we have conducted 3 surveys in the first 5 months of this year that have given us a good deal of feedback. While we fully acknowledge the Holy Spirit is the one who leads the church, we are simply attempting to find out if we are achieving the things we believe he has given us to do. We appreciate your participation and honest feedback. Following are some of the results of the church-wide survey taken in March.

Results of Church-Wide Survey

1. Attendance at our worship services is up 8% in the last 12 months.
2. Many of our people are relatively new to the Vineyard.
 - o 25% of our people are new in the last year.
 - o 50% of our people are new in the last 2 years.
 - o 75% of our people are new in the last 5 years.
 - o 88% of the people have been here less than 10 years.

(Note: with so many new people, we must continually re-establish foundations.)
3. 43% of our adults are single (never married, divorced, widowed, etc.).
4. Our racial diversity is moving in the right direction.
 - o 86.6% White
 - o 6.8% Asian
 - o 3.8% Black / African-American
 - o 2.5% Latino
 - o 2.3% Other
5. 46% of people attending were "unchurched" prior to Vineyard.
 - o 11% made first time commitments to Jesus here
 - o 14% have recommitted their lives here
6. More people are reading their Bible and praying weekly (74%) than ever before (the same category was 69% last year).
7. Unfortunately our small group participation has dropped in the past year to about 40%.

8. Those involved in small groups reported the most spiritual growth. **(Note: We still believe small groups are vital to growing spiritually.)**
9. 50% of our people come from Champaign-Urbana. Another 25% come from the remainder of Champaign County and the remaining 25% come from other counties.

Areas to Improve

While the above numbers are generally good, they do leave room for improvement. Here are some of the aspects that I believe we can improve on in the future:

1. I would like to see our worship services grow by at least 10% annually. Further, I would like to see the largest percentage of people who attend our church be here for five or more years.
2. I would like to see greater diversity so that we would be closer to the population base of East Central Illinois. (Actually we have more diversity than our actual market area but we have less diversity than Champaign-Urbana itself.)
3. We definitely need to help small groups become a focal point again. People in them have each year reported having the most spiritual growth, are serving the most, and are the ones most happy with their spiritual experience.

You Can Help

In regard to all the things I've mentioned above, I would like you to pray that God would help us do an even better job of serving our people. Help newcomers connect. If you're already in a small group, invite those you meet to join you. I pray that you will go out of your way to get to know people of other cultures within our church. It is great for you personally and wonderful for the church.

Overall, I would like to say thanks for making the church all that it is. We as pastors are doing everything we know to follow God. Please pray that we continue to do his will.

Happy Notes at Home are a monthly reflection of community life at The Vineyard Church and are produced by Happy Leman.