
GROWTH POINTS

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What is Your Limfac?

The military is fond of abbreviations. They have a term for a situation, element, or factor that is holding a person or organization back — *limfac* — i.e., limiting factor.

People and organizations have *limfacs*. What *limfacs* are holding your church back from growth?

The following are some of the major *limfacs* found in non-growing churches (listed in no particular order).

Which ones can you see in your own church?

Limfac #1: Ingrown Perspective

Some churches think only about themselves. Their rationale is that the church is for believers, therefore, it shouldn't be expected that unchurched people would attend. All of the programs, plans, and goals are based on what the people already in church desire. Little to no thought is given to how to prepared for, welcome, and keep new people.

Limfac #2: Non-growth Excuses

Commonly heard in churches lacking growth are statements like, “No one’s interested in attending church anymore.” Or, “People don’t want to listen to the Word of God any longer.” Or, “We may not be growing, but we’re faithful.” There are lots of excuses for non-growth, but no good ones.

Limfac #3: Inadequate Location

A church’s physical location has a great deal to do with its growth potential. While some churches in a poor location grow, a good location provides more opportunity for growth. The old statement among real estate sales people is true: It’s all about Location, Location, Location.

Limfac #4: Limited Space

Lack of space is a key *limfac* for many churches. The three main areas of concern are parking, seating, and childcare.

Parking — A growing church needs a minimum of 1 parking space per 2 people of all ages.

Seating — A growing church needs a worship space that is 30-40% larger than it thinks it needs. On normal Sundays worship seating fills up to only 70% capacity. Thus, a church of 150 worshipers needs a seating capacity of 215 seats.

Childcare — A growing church needs childcare space adequate for 25% to 50% of adult attendance. This, of course, depends on the age makeup of the congregation. But, a church of 250 adults will need childcare space for 60-125 children birth through high school.

Essential Key: The three areas of parking, seating, and childcare must be in balance. They work together for growth or against growth. People must be able to park or they can't come into the building. But once in the building they must be able to sit and children must have a place to reside. Anyone of these three factors can be a *limfac*.

Limfac #5: Acreage

As a general rule, churches grow to match the acreage on which their church sits. Most churches grow to a ratio of 100 people to each acre of

land the church facilities occupy. Thus, a church with 1.5 acres of land grows to 150 people and a church with five acres of land grows to 500 people, etc.

Limfac #6: Paucity of Prayer

Churches grow that pray for growth. A church may teach about prayer, preach about prayer, and talk about prayer. But, how many people are praying? The minimum rule is a growing church needs 10% of it's people praying for growth, praying for newcomers, praying for salvations. Thus a church of 100 needs at least 10 people interceding for growth.

Limfac #7: Absence of Evangelism

A growing church focuses 10% of its total financial budget toward outreach and evangelism in it's own community. The money goes to training, advertising, and events to draw non-believers to hear the gospel of salvation.

Which of these do you see in your church? Pick one or two and begin to eliminate the *limfacs* this year.



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