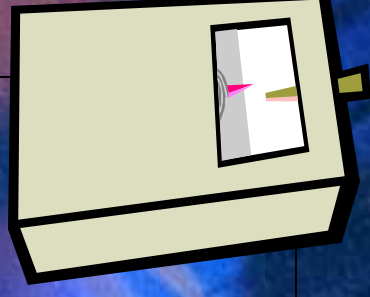


Enrollment: Properly Defined and Applied

Sunday School/Open Group Ministries
Pole Creek Baptist Church



Assignments

- 1- Determine what organizational adjustments need to be made in the coming year. Discuss these with your Sunday School Director and determine when to implement.
- 2- Read Chapter Two of *Key Strategies*.
- 3- Complete reading of one of four books.

Did You Know?

- In recent years it has taken (on average) two SBC churches to enroll one person in Sunday School?
- Over 300,000 of Georgia's resident members are not enrolled in a class?
- On any given Sunday in Georgia, 49% of those enrolled are present?

Why Should You Focus On Enrollment?

1. It is a tool that can enable your church to reach, minister, assimilate, and teach God's Word to your members and to the community.
2. It is the core of a comprehensive strategy. It is the building block for other practices common in healthy, growing Sunday Schools.
3. It is a measure by which you can track progress and see results.

What Happens When a Person is Enrolled?

- **Intercession**: The person can be prayed for regularly whether they attend weekly or are struggling spiritually.
- **Invitation**: The person can be regularly invited to participate in fellowship opportunities where meaningful relationships can be developed.
- **Involvement**: The person is encouraged to engage in Bible Study that strengthens their relationship to God, to family, and to Kingdom service.
- **Inclination**: The person is challenged and more likely to engage in evangelism and

Three Most Effective Assimilation Tools

from High Expectations

1. A Healthy Sunday School
2. A New Members/New
Christian's Class
3. An Emphasis on
Relationships

The Demise of the Enrollment Strategy

- “An effective effort was made to pair the roll down to those who actually attended rather than using the roll as a pool from which to draw prospects or visitors. While this was intended to more accurately reflect church attendance, it indirectly contributed to an attendance decline. Attendance suffered because marginal members (those not on roll) were neglected. Enrolling new members was not emphasized because all energy was placed on attendance. The enrollment “window of entry” was lost to Sunday School. The church was left with one less way of reaching people.”

-Elmer Towns

Ephesians 4:11-13

- “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

A Sound Enrollment Strategy

- Is measurable
- Can encompass all members
- Breaks down responsibility
- Serves as the attendance pool
- Provides observable patterns

Three Enrollment Approaches

- No System
- Attendance Lists (Closed Enrollment)
- Ministry Lists (Open Enrollment)

Best Enrollment Practices

- *Open Enrollment: Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime as long as they agree.*
- *Enrollment is a list of people that the class commits to minister to.*
- *Enroll all resident members.*
- *Automatically enroll all new members as they join.*
- *Conduct a worship survey quarterly (or at least annually).*

Enrollment Notes

- Enrollment is not the same as church membership.
- Enrollment serves as the attendance pool and functions like a thermostat
- Enrollment (rightly applied) serves as a ministry and accountability list.
- Increasing enrollment alone will not grow attendance, but you can't sustain growth without increasing enrollment.

Barriers To Enrollment

1. The Closed Membership Barrier
2. The Multiple Sunday Attendance Barrier
3. The In-Class Only Enrollment Barrier
4. The Purging The Rolls Barrier
5. The Lack of Motivation Barrier
6. The Enrollment Is Not Important Barrier

Survey Says:

- Georgia's Fastest Growing Sunday Schools:
- 100% have a growing enrollment
- 84% automatically or strongly encourage enrollment upon joining
- 92% of resident members are enrolled compared to 70% state wide
- Average 46% present compared to 49% present statewide
- 91% have open enrollment

What About Percentages?

- 100% falsely implies that there is no one else to reach. This is never the case.
- Percentages can be useful for evaluation.
- 40-60% is a healthy balance.
- Less than 40% usually indicates deficiency in ministry, contacts, and care.
- More than 60% usually indicates deficiency in evangelism, outreach, and enrollment practices.

Where To Start If You Have No System

1. Determine what type of roll you will use.
2. Update rolls for each class. Gather information on all who are attending.
3. Conduct two registration Sundays to include those that are not attending.
4. Conduct a telephone blitz of resident members.
5. Compile the information and update all rolls.
6. Begin maintaining accurate records each week.

Look at I Corinthians 12:18

- **God has placed the members in the body of the local church, and He has given you the responsibility to minister to them.**
- **It is not only the people who attend that you are to care for, but for all of those that He has placed in the body.**
- **If you remove names because they do not attend, they ultimately become lost to the ministry of the church.**

Enrollment Policy Reflecting I Corinthians 12:18

- We believe God has placed members in our body as He has chosen.
- We will obey the Great Commission in seeking to enroll anyone, anywhere, anytime as long as the person agrees.
- We will not remove members from the roll unless they die, move, join another church or request removal.
- We commit to minister to everyone enrolled without regard to their pattern of attendance.

Evaluate By These Criteria

- Do you have an increasing enrollment?
- How does your enrollment compare to your resident membership?
- Is your attendance to enrollment percentage between 40-60%?
- Are new members automatically enrolled?

Ten Enrollment Ideas

1. Practice Open Enrollment
2. Provide opportunities during the
Worship Service
3. Permit first time guests to enroll
4. Place new members on a Sunday
School roll automatically
5. Plan a special enrollment emphasis
each year

Ten Key Ideas

6. Enroll all resident members
7. Give enrollment cards to visitation teams
8. Enroll at special events
9. Pre-enroll Infants
10. Set enrollment goals.

REMEMBER:

- “If you’re not enrolled in Sunday School, you ain’t got no class!”

» Andy Anderson

Assignments

1. Compare current enrollment to the enrollment in your church one year and five years ago.
2. Conduct an enrollment audit/survey during a worship service.
3. Develop enrollment guidelines for your Sunday School. Communicate these to your leaders.
4. Read Chapter 3 of *Key Strategies*.

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Sunday School/Open Group Ministries
Georgia Baptist Convention

