

Slide Notes, Mid Atlantic Leadership Conference Preparing for Growth Session Three

Our Premise... We work for the Great Shepherd... Who laid down His life for the sake of the "sheep..." He is looking for places to put His precious people... Things happen over time, that can get in the way of trustworthy care and nurture... Things we can change!

For the Harvest...

We are preparing the Pastor's heart! Re-viewing our perspective and removing the separators!
Preparing the Congregation! Renewing their sight/strength and increasing the community!
Preparing the "pens!" Rebuilding our place in the world!

I will gather My sheep from all places where they are and bring them again to their folds where they will be fruitful and increase. And I will set shepherds over them which will feed them, and they will not fear, be broken down, or be alone any more. **Jeremiah 23.3,4**

Preparing a place for growth! Q's?

The last time you went to dinner... Did the place smell? Good? Clean? Were the place settings dirty? What about your "server?" What about the food? (Bella's reality!)

Did something ruin the experience for you? What?

The last time you chose a hotel... Flea bag to save a few bucks? Love the sights, smells, hair in the sheets? Choose newest, affordable, chain? Fresh paint, clean smell, nicely decorated? How did you feel in the 5 star?

Did something ruin the experience?

The last time you went out for a night of entertainment... Was it well lit? Exciting? Could you hear properly? Was it safe? *Did you actually have fun?*

Did something ruin the experience?

The last time you went to a church where things were really happening... What did it look like?

Did anything ruin the experience for you? (Was it jealousy?)

The last time you went to your church... How did you feel? What did you see? Well lit? Safe? Smells? Was it exciting?

Did anything ruin your experience?

What don't we understand about the picky nature of people?

Not suggesting... That if you build it, that people will come... All you need is a fun and exciting décor and you'll turn around... That facilities/atmosphere can do what God has reserved as His own work...

Saying...

1. Our plants should not be a hindrance to the gospel!
2. This is not an outpost society! If it's not safe, people won't stay! Too many other choices!
3. If our plants suggest that the level of our care is shoddy... people won't stay!
4. Our Dad, who distributes the sheep of His pasture, is not going to place them with someone who can't care for a building!

"If you cannot handle the lesser, who is foolish enough to give you what is of great value?"

5. New sheep need care and enculturation... God will first pick clean, safe, modernized pens!

The Great Shepherd is not interested in placing new, precious lambs in deplorable, restrictive, conditions!

What can we do? Honest survey of surroundings! Help to survey surroundings! Work days to clean and correct! A decorator's visit/plan! A visit to a new hotel/restaurant, entertainment complex, mall/hospital/ball park/church

Our Outpost Mentality Foursquare has some pretty great stories about the old outpost pioneer churches... Owasso! Decades in decline! Two bungalows tied together! Dark/smelly/unsafe! Spring running under it! Pastors did their best and God took care of the rest! Now new!

Once ready... Our pens give us the opportunity to serve and train the sheep in a conducive atmosphere! Buildings should be age and situation appropriate! Regularly maintained and upgraded!

We must think like Walt (Disney)!

The people coming here are seeing us for the first time... And they should think that everything is brand new, just for them!