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The Refuge Christian

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An Engaged Congregation pt.2 by Stan Sutton

Last month we began our discussion of "An Engaged Congregation." We mentioned that the marks of "An Engaged Congregation" include: 1. Members Participate; 2. Members feel the facility is theirs and take care of it as such; and 3. Members Pledge/Promise their support.

This month we want to add that Members are involved at more than the 20/80 level.

For years both in the church and in other organizations it has been true that 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Now while that may be okay for organizations in general it is not appropriate for the church.

First, let me note why this principle works so effectively in all kinds of organizations. The paradigm is very simple really. Those who say "yes" get called on to help more. If you can count on someone to say "yes", leaders are more likely to ask the

"yes" candidate to help than they are to go through a long list of probable "no"s.

The first problem we have to face then is that of the "left outs" versus the "burn-outs". It is simply true that in all organizations even the 20% who usually say "yes" will eventually get tired and will get "burned out". And the 80% who never get asked will never be ready to step up and be involved because they feel "left-out"

This is so very unacceptable in the church and even those of us at Refuge need to be aware of it and do a better job of changing those percentages.

It is so very unacceptable for churches, because in the church it is God who has gifted the members of the church. 1 Peter 4:10 says that each one of us has been given a gift from God that we ought to use. As church members we ought to want to use our "gifts and

abilities for God". And, as leaders we ought to be looking for ways to incorporate as many members as possible into Christian service because we want them to please God and it is just plain fun to be doing what God wants you to do.

So, members, be ready to help whenever you are asked when it is something you can do (your gift). And leaders, let's try to do a better job of asking the 80% to be more involved in the work of the church.

Finally, The Church Creates Programs that Attract and Hold People. Currently, Stan and Nathan are working on reports to give to the Elders of how to make Refuge a better place. If you have dreams you would like us to consider tell Nathan or Stan or one of the Elders.

As we begin to think ahead to 2009 we want Refuge to be a better place that meets peoples needs and reaches out. We want to be "An Engaged Congregation."

Church Finances and Other Data...

Worship Attendance:

September 7	149
September 14	137
September 21	121
September 28	141

Weekly Giving (weekly budget 5548.00):

September 7	\$5101.29
	\$425 (Fifth Sun. Offering)
September 14	\$4393.36
	\$1297.00 (Pig Roast/Missions)
September 21	\$4083.00
	\$200 (Fifth Sun. Offering)
September 28	\$4955.00

(compiled from records provided by Barbie Vaught, financial secretary)

Youth News, etc. from Nathan...

October 18th we will be helping KIDS Inc. with their support of the Indianapolis Marathon. Never fear, we will not be RUNNING the Marathon, we're going to help serve the meal afterwards. This is not a teen-only event, we would like anyone who wants to participate to do so. Please email or talk to Nathan so he can know how many people are going.

ICYC is going to be at Anderson University again this year. We are going and are looking forward to a good time. Total cost will be around \$60 not including food. November 21-23

Please don't forget to check out our Children's Ministry Newsletter. It has all kinds of useful info.

Useful Stuff to remember:

"Caring Day" for the Community	9:00 a.m..	October 18th
Blood Drive at Refuge		November 2nd
CWC 90th Federation Day	10:00 a.m.	Carmel Christian Church, October 15th.

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