

**TRANSFORMATIONAL CHURCH STRATEGIC SESSIONS**  
**RESPONSES FROM THOSE IN ATTENDANCE**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010**

**Responses Grouped By Subject**

**Relational Intentionality -**

Discipleship; felt welcome; pastor did one-to-one training; need to invite to activities;  
“what do I need?”

Friendly church vs. looking for friend

-Not connected – not allowed to join in group of established

Don't feel a part of things

Hard to connect

During the week accountability

Relationships as friends

Personal relationships

Keeping the relationship

Looking for a way to connect

Friendly church – surface, trite?

A friendly church is friendly for 2 hours week

Friends are 24/7

A friendly church is the environment

Friends transcend circumstances

Being able to relate and associate with

The difference is a friendly church has a good atmosphere, having friends is a relationship.

Friendly church is shallow; friendships take followup.

Follow through.

Staying connected.

Friendly church vs. Friends (What's the difference?)

Friendly church

People say "hi"

Mechanical (shaking hands, etc.)

No personality

Meets social needs

Surface/easier

Wal-Mart greeters

You can fake friendly

This is a building

Friends

get involved

make relationships (outside church)

meet physical needs

meet emotional needs

more trouble/time

you can't fake friendship

this is people

Time spent in church vs. time spent outside of church

Friendly = surface; Friendship = deeper, relational

Thinking of church as a building. Friends = people

We are friendly on Sunday. Are we as friendly the rest of the week?

Contact during week

Follow up - Sunday am isn't enough

Sitting in the same place – don't reach out to new folks

Personal relationships impact lives versus just a "friendly church"

Friendly church is "surface level".

True friendship is an investment in lives.

People aren't looking for a friendly but for friends

In the beginning they want the church to be friendly

Do things outside church

## **Friendly church vs. Place to make friends: FBC**

Friendly – but not until small group joining

Not intentional about reaching out to them – telling them how to be involved

Cliquish – not inviting others to join – not reaching out to new people or people who are already here

A friendly church: surface (How are you? But do you really care with concern?)

Older; Generation really go to extra effort to connect at a deeper level

A place to make friends: young group – come to FBC to make friends

FBC is both.

Friendly while here but falling short after the initial contact

Both

Family connection makes it easier to get connect with small groups or friends.

Fear that someone you don't know may just attend another service – don't speak to avoid embarrassment

Both.

"We were treated like we had been here a long time."

"Mine was different. I did not get encouraged. I had to hunt out folks. If you're not outgoing, it is harder. We as a church need to seek out those that may not seek others out."

--Would there be value to having the greeters in the foyer after the service?  
Invite folks to church?

Both

We think FBCG is both. Because of size it is difficult to know who is visiting. We think there is a tendency to form "clicks."

FBCG is a little of both; but we need to work more on making friends.

We are both.

People develop relationships.

People were very friendly.

We are neither.

Cliquish

Have had people come and no one speaks

We're busy – too many layers

We're insecure

Both a friendly church and a place to make friends.

Relationships are 2 way. It takes both parties – the existing member and visitor/new member.

Want my seat sitting with my family.

Cliquish

Fall short of making friends: follow up

Time and effort – program vs. personal responsibility

FBCG could fall on either side.

Do not do as good of a job reaching out to make friendships outside the church  
Scale of 1-10 – we are a 6; friendly church  
A place to make friends - not completely needs more openness

## **Relationships – vital important to church culture?**

Agree? – Yes – we are not coming for one another

Peers Agree? – Yes

Older generation – “true friends” – deeply connected; church was center of life when they grew up

Medium (40-55 year olds) – friendly; too busy for friendships; lots of outside activities for families

Go outside the walls

On 2 levels – (1) mom and dad; (2) kids

Seek their perspective – what are they looking for?

Help them meet a need and expect them to invest back

Choose someone/or a family to mentor

People may not leave church (if dissatisfied) because they don't want to leave their friends

Youth would say yes and also senior adults

Young adults – possibly no

Yes. Where there is a need, we rush to help. Even (especially) where there is an emotional, spiritual need. Emily K. has already been contacted by widows to offer support. Guys that visit from prison feel like they are accepted here.

Yes.

Relationship with Christ

Depends on what relationships they have in the church. May be harder for a total stranger.

Yes, relationships are important.

We must love Jesus first instead of what we think about each other.

Yes, our peers would agree.

Yes, newcomers would agree because we think FBC is friendly.

No, it is more about numbers. People seem to come in the front door and go out the back door.

Takes time to get to know each other.

People don't always blend well.

When our relationships with Christ change people start mixing more easily.

Because of our relationship with Christ.

No. Family relationships are the "substance"; We're more focused on doing things (meeting needs, not really getting to know)

Where's the follow up? Pulga, Parrish Manor, Fall Festival, Chadwicks

Do peers agree? Wish they were; should be; some strong friendships because of Church

Newcomers? No – probably not

FBC culture is about providing activities, events, opportunities to reach people for the first time or to reach people with the Gospel, but NO FOLLOW UP to build a relationship.

Senior adults = yes; interests and activities in common. Time to commit to each other.

Are we open enough to allow newcomers in?

Peers – friendly (hard to know)

We are an event driven church, calendar driven.

We feel like the substance of our church is Jesus Christ.

## **Young Families– Why are we (FBC) not successful at reaching and keeping young families?**

No focus; large group of young adults have aged forward; lessons are good, but lacks "excitement"

Focused on serving who we have, not trying to capture new

What is our responsibility? Do your part; talk; inform; discuss opportunities – invite

Parents not committed to church: programs are different at other churches for younger children;

Is it the parents that we need to reach first? Or activities for the children to draw and keep?

Expand activities besides RAs/Gas

Families have not instilled values – they are focusing more on what’s fun instead of what’s needed

More opportunities/distractions for not being in church

Not a priority

Style of worship and connecting

The kids are here on Wed. evening, but the parents don’t have them here on Sunday. Parents seem to be focusing on what is here for the kids.

Soccer, baseball, sports in general seem to be winning out over church service, for whatever reason.

Different style part of it.

Offer alternate times for services?

Need a stronger outreach program.

More programs for younger couples.

Making them feel wanted and needed. The importance of Christ in their lives and their children’s lives.

Younger generation is one of entitlement and don’t want to “put in” or give.

Therefore, they aren’t getting out what they need. We wonder what happened to cause the change in 2006. Our responsibility is to help them get involved, quickly. Upward, etc. Have them play a role, feel needed.

We don’t have what they are looking for.

No one in preschool or children’s classes to greet families at 9:00 hour

Make home visits, phone calls, send cards to make them feel welcome and wanted.

If we don’t have a lot of young families, then we don’t have people going out and reaching out to their peers.

Generalization priority.

Children’s safety

Young families are really busy.

What are the reasons we haven’t “kept” young families?

- first impressions (cleanliness, caring staff, happy place)

- lots of draw – ex. Fall Festival, Upward, Whatever, etc.

- no follow up – people have to ask where to go, what to do

Too many members who don’t plug in.

FBCG members need to BE REAL!!

There are not the right small group studies that will draw these families  
(especially newlyweds)

Two church services – Maybe they come to a service with more senior adults  
Not offering enough options each hour; ex. Ladies (single) class 2<sup>nd</sup> hour  
People are pulled out by other activities  
Competing with extra-curricular  
Relationships & accountability

Older, established church doesn't appeal to younger adults  
Being flexible service style, etc.  
Must be more flexible to meet their schedules; ie Saturday evening service,  
alternative meeting time for families involved in Sunday activities.

Visiting – follow up more than once

## **How can FBC be more intentional about building intentional relationships?**

Can't meet need until we know what it is  
Sunday school class that meets your needs  
Singles classes are difficult  
Meet other needs to help build relationships (finance class, etc.)  
Find out what is keeping them from Sunday School?  
Help them build relationships with each other

Miss Wednesday night services & Sunday evening services  
Safety of children  
New activities for kids

Make it a point to witness and encourage  
Meeting them where they are  
As J. D. Tew says – hang out – build relationships “invest in the folks”  
Have the mindset to intentionally get them connected

We have to intentionally set out to mentoring young couples.  
Help them with their kids for an evening.  
Come over for a meal. Go get a hot dog.  
Individuals be more intentional  
We must each go! Tell! Reach! Bring!

Come up with programs and ideas that are appealing to younger people.  
Participate in the above programs. We all have something to offer.

Spiritual mentoring program.

Older couple with younger couple.

Realizing our culture has so many opportunities to participate in other activities  
(travel soccer, baseball, etc.)

Perhaps after a church service at a different time.

Provide some mentoring or something more specific for them.

Make the time to get with some of the young families

Keep encouraging young families.

Young families need good mentors/role models.

Good mentors

Get out of our own age group; reach out to other people.

Have mixed classes; mix the age groups.

Find something in common; get to know the young families.

Invite – time; investment (lunch, welcome packets, groups willing to be  
intentional)

Hospitality

Willing to cross generational groups?

Be Real (show by example!) – Cardboard testimonies every Sunday

Why are we not real? Fear

More discipleship classes on parenting, new couples, young families. Something  
more appealing to them.

Minister to parents as well as children

Role models needed.

More intentional and know when and how to refer for help.

Wednesday night, Tuesday, etc....discipleship classes

Mothers Morning Out – outreach, coffee; personal contact

Starbucks?

Coffee shop?

Spend time with unchurched people

## Challenges to cultivating relationships?

People have varied priorities

People still about just hanging out with same people

Time

Cliques

Try getting people in new roles; same people doing a lot of stuff

Expectations – of roles; normally

Two/three different services

Space = no space to gather: foyer too small

Need for more time between services to talk and fellowship and mingle

Willing to give up funds in budget for women's ministries for young families

2 worship services

Clicks

Be real

Use small groups to cultivate relationships

Assume someone else will do it.

Go, ask and meet folks.

Be willing to change the process but not the message

Be willing

Time and creating an atmosphere.

Expand

Find some common ground.

Church size

Clicks

Members unwilling or not passionate enough to reach out

Go back to one service?

Convenience of 2 services is worth it?

Pray for Holy Spirit to move

Building relationships is uncomfortable but we have to try.

Two services

More joint services or gatherings

Mixing age groups

People don't want to change.

Time  
Fear  
Lack of commitment  
Lack of accountability  
Size  
Priorities  
We have no follow thru with our events/programs  
The laity doesn't have opportunity to let the body know how God is working in their lives – give opportunity  
Assumptions – someone else will do it

Cliques  
Creatures of habit, don't want to step out of our comfort zone  
(a sure example is always sitting in the same pew)

Intentionally meeting others  
Double services  
Sunday School spaces to fit in where needed.  
Break down façade of "no problems"  
"Derieux Edwards" mentality – intentional about reaching others.

2 services  
2 SS classes  
Many activities at same time, people spread out

Environment – Middle road church

## **Sacrifice**

Personally invite neighbors  
Relate to high school boys – be more direct to be sure they know  
Anything except Jesus  
Time & time with existing relationship that hinder our service  
Be willing to give of yourself  
Tradition  
Comfort  
Pride, be honest  
Change individually

What will I do to reach the non-Christians around me?

What will I do to reach young families?

There is no try. There is do or not do.

What am I willing to give up in the way we do church to reach others?

We have to be willing to give it all up!

Invite them to church.

Come out of our comfort zone

Be a good example

Get the children to come

Whatever it takes.

What will I/we do: pray, build relationships

What will I do?

Ask the question – do you know Jesus?

Build relationships – regardless of their “spiritual condition”

Give up – time, traditional church service, comfort, my “holy huddle”

Help in nursery so they can go “do.”

Other age groups must take on more responsibility

Sell – get info out. They need to know what is available.

Do a few programs and do them well.

Coaching Garner baseball

Having families in our homes, meals, etc...invest time

Lead by sacrifice – What will I do?