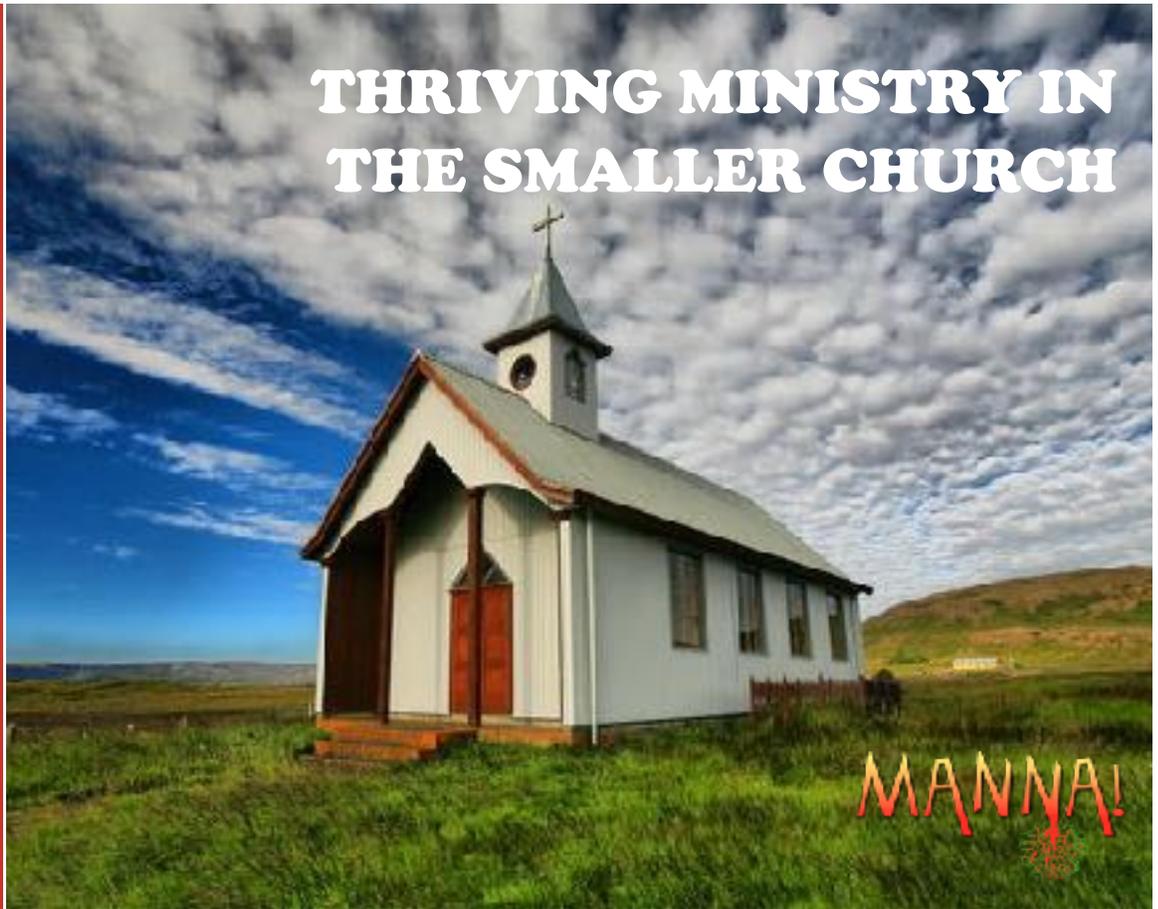


THRIVING MINISTRY IN THE SMALLER CHURCH



Objectives:

- Discover the advantages of smaller church ministry
- Create a thriving ministry through a GOD lens and perspective
- Initiate new strategies and ideas into your smaller church

Introduction: Small is Tall!



FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT CHURCH:

- The 200-barrier is a church growth _____ . Three in four congregations never break it. Embrace your smallness!
- A church that doesn't _____ and reproduce will eventually die. You can be smaller and still reinvent and reproduce.
- A church doesn't need to be larger than _____ to be blessed by God and effective in ministry. Smaller can be taller!
- Dynamic smaller churches (regardless of size) and growing churches (also regardless of size) nearly always have _____ ministry as a congregational priority.

The “smaller” church is any congregation that attracts an average weekly attendance of 200 people or fewer for Sunday worship. The average American church is 125 members and nearly 9 in 10 congregations are “smaller” by definition. Many of these churches do not have buildings but meet in homes, hotels, schools and mobile trailers.

SMALL IS TALL!

*He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it **grows**, it is **the largest of garden plants** and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."*

(Matthew 13:31-32)

OBSTACLES THAT STUNT AND STALL GROWTH:

Volunteer Resources:

Financial Resources:

Facility Space:

Perceptions, Biases, Values and Fears:

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT!

Think Walgreens Not Wal-Mart

GROWING A SMALLER CHURCH MINISTRY

A Garden of **G**_____ : *unconditional, unbelievable, surprising*

Rooted in **R**_____ : *connection, community, collaboration*

Pruned by **O**_____ : *control, contribution, choice*

Watered with **W**_____ : *value, vision, voice*

Fertilized by **L**_____ : *enjoyment, entertainment*

Protected with **S**_____ : *emotional, physical*



THE G-O-D LENS...

Grace!

SOIL CONTAMINANT: GUILT AND GIMMICKS

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Organism!

SOIL CONTAMINANT: MECHANIZATION

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." (Matthew 13:33)

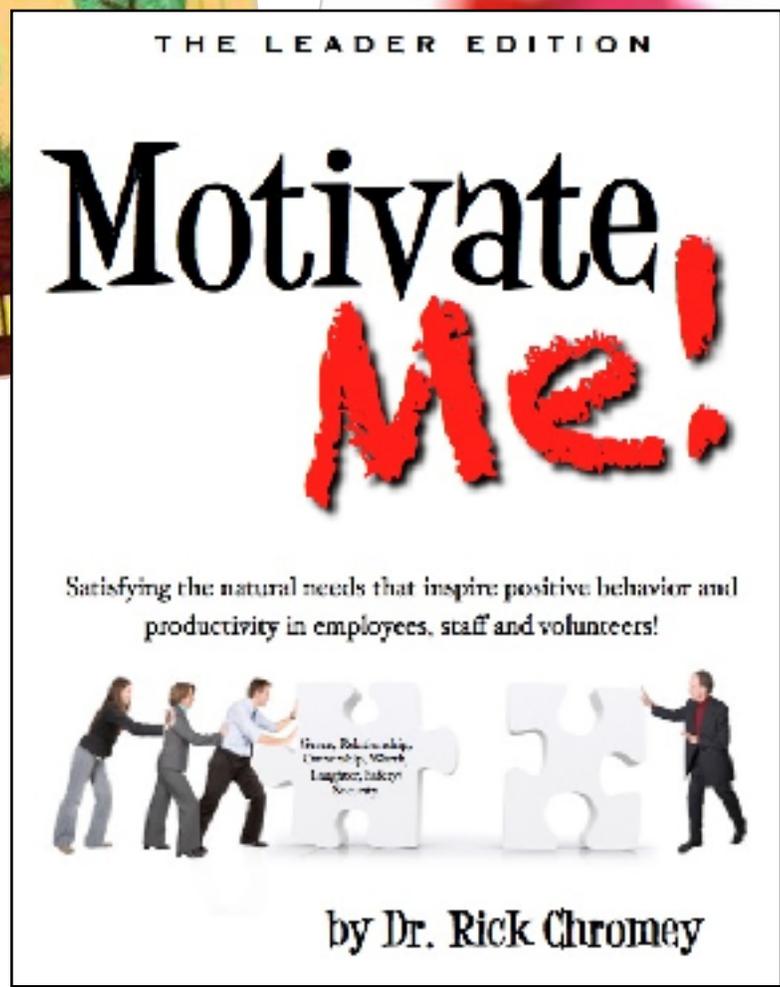
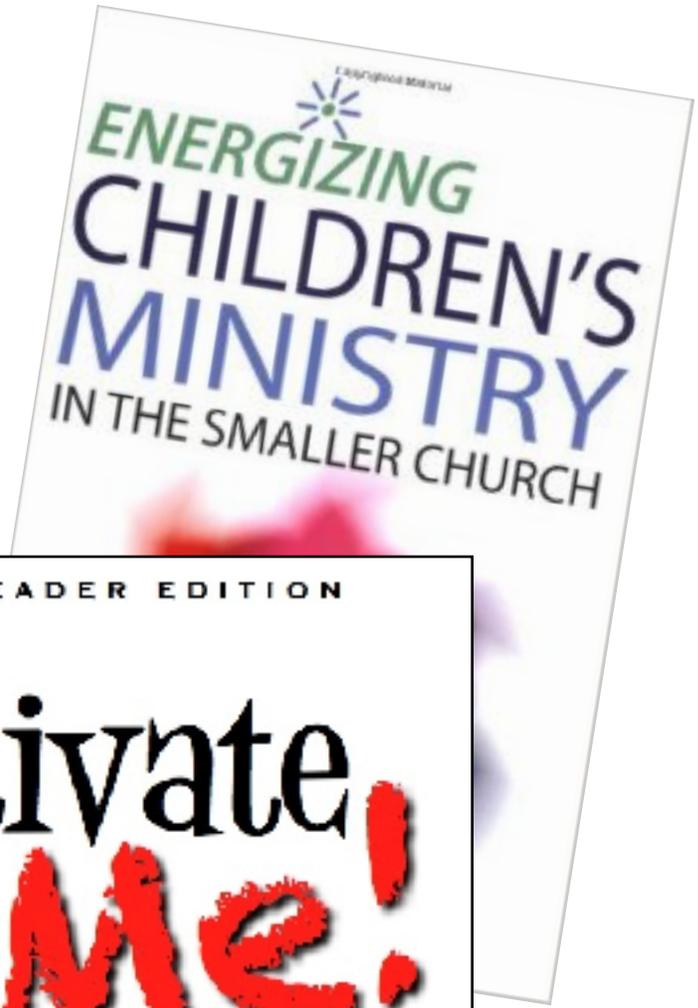
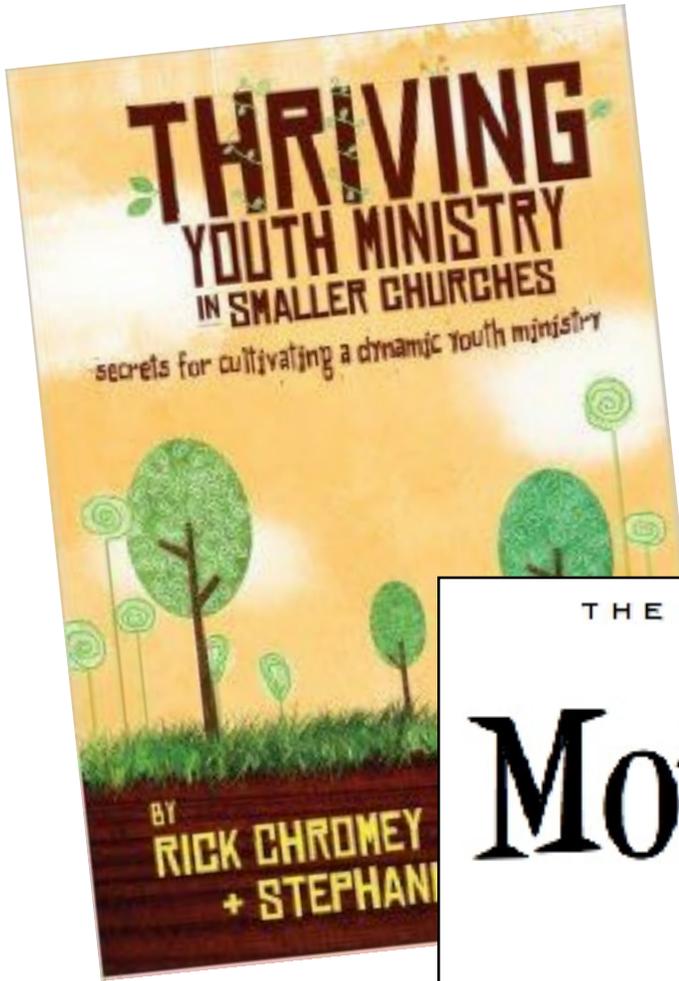
De-Centralized!

SOIL CONTAMINANT: ONE-MAN SHOW

What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.. (I Corinthians 14:26)



SMALLER CHURCH RESOURCES BY DR. RICK CHROMEY



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