

The Thriving Church, Part 1: Indicators

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The Thriving Church Series / Acts 2:47

Acts 2:47 CEB

They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

The Thriving Church

Churches should be thriving.

The church in Acts 2:47 was thriving.

Our Reality

We need to apply an intervention in order to thrive.

The reality is that most churches are not growing and not getting any younger.

"No major Christian tradition is growing in the US today. A few denominations are managing to hold steady, but that's as good as it gets." - Kara Powell. *Growing Young*, Fuller Theological Seminary.

"Fully 80-85 percent of all Adventist churches in North America are plateaued or declining." -Russell Burrill, *Waking the Dead*

One in two young people will drift from the church.

Average lifespan of the church is seventy years. - Russell Burrill, *Waking the Dead*

Our Hope

Our hope is in following Jesus.

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." -Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143

The areas to focus on to become a thriving church are:

1. Discipleship/ Evangelism
2. Leadership
3. Empathy
4. Community
5. Priorities
6. Neighbors

Prayer List of People You are Praying For to Receive Jesus...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.