



**THE PLATFORM  
INTERNATIONAL**

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# NEW ERA

SEPTEMBER 2023



# 4

## FACTORS THAT PREDICT CHURCH GROWTH

**DR. VICTORY  
GODSPOWER**  
International President

    theplatforminternational



**P**astors and leaders can evaluate their congregations by asking four questions associated with predicting church growth. Small, normative-sized churches can be healthy congregations serving Jesus and the community in which He has placed them.

For many churches, however, there is an opportunity for numerical growth. Many people may be physically near the church building but spiritually far from God. Regardless of whether a church sits on a city block or a rural road, most congregations are surrounded by both non-Christians and lapsed Christians.

A recent Research found a majority of both Protestant pastors and churchgoers consider someone to be a regular churchgoer if they attend twice or month or more. Recent surveys show a minority of people attend church regularly. And the number seems to be

shrinking. As of August 2022, the average Protestant church was at 85% of their pre-pandemic attendance, according to Research. Still, nearly 1 in 6 pastors (17%) reported church growth during the pandemic.

## 1. Evangelism

In the past 12 months, how many people have indicated a new commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior through your church?

This should be obvious, but the more effectively evangelistic a church is, the more likely they are to have grown numerically. If you want more people at your church, you need to reach more people.

The average Protestant church saw 15 new commitments to Jesus in the past year. But most churches saw far less than that. Around 2 in 3 congregations had fewer than 10 people make a new commitment to Christ as Savior in the past 12 months, including 17% who saw no new commitments through their church.

Churches wanting to grow their worship attendance can start by focusing on increasing their evangelism. If you had no new commitments last year, make it a priority to have at least one this year. Or if you had four, aim for 10. If non-Christians live within driving distance of your church, you have an opportunity to grow.

## 2. Assimilation

Among the new commitments, what percentage have also become active in the life of your church? If you want to grow, help new converts transition into active participants. Weave them into the fabric of your congregation.

On average, 79% of new commitments become active in the life of the church. A slight majority of churches (56%) say they retained all their converts in the past year. As a bright point, churches are more likely now than at any point in the past 15 years to say they retained all the new commitments.

This is an area where smaller churches or those reaching fewer people have an advantage. In fact, large churches are the least likely to say they've retained all their new commitments in the past 12 months (35%). Small churches that can reach new people for Christ and make them feel a welcomed part of the congregation can keep those they reach with the gospel.

“Small churches that can reach new people for Christ and make them feel a welcomed part of the congregation can keep those they reach with the gospel.”

### 3. Small Group Discipleship

What percentage of your current weekend worship attendees are involved in some small group, Sunday school class, or similar group?

If you've reached new people and they feel at home in your church, an important step is to get them involved in small groups. A higher percentage of worship attendees involved in groups means a church is more likely to be growing its worship service.

The average percentage of

worship service attendees who are involved in some type of small group discipleship has fallen from 50% in 2008 to 44% today. Currently, a quarter of churches (24%) say less than a quarter of their churchgoers are part of a small group, up from 17% who said that was the case in 2008. Fewer than 1 in 5 (19%) say at least 75% of their attendees are also small group participants.

Right now, this is a weakness among small congregations. Those with fewer than 50 worship service attendees are the most likely to say less than 25% of those attendees are involved in a small group (39%). If you want a growing church and a healthy church, strive to increase the percentage of churchgoers involved in a small group.

### 4. Church Size

What is your current worship attendance?

Churches that evangelize, assimilate new converts, and get them involved in small groups are likely to grow. Because of that, growth is a self-repeating cycle. Church size predicts church growth because those churches are often already doing what it takes to grow.

A Faith Communities Today study found the average congregation sees 65 people gather each week. The average church is getting

smaller, but the average churchgoer is going to a larger church. While 7 in 10 churches have 100 or fewer weekly worship service attendees, 7 in 10 churchgoers attend a church with more than 250 each week.

While 7 in 10 churches have 100 or fewer weekly worship service attendees, 7 in 10 churchgoers attend a church with more than 250 each week, according to the Faith Communities Today study.

This does not mean, however, that small churches cannot grow. This only indicates that larger churches are more likely to have grown in the past 15 years.

For the normative-sized church, the focus should be on the first three factors—reach new people, get them involved, and plug them into a small group. Regardless of a church's size today, if a congregation is committed and successful at those three factors, they're much more likely to be a healthy and growing congregation in the future.

I pray that this teaching helps you to do better than you are doing right now in Jesus Name. Amen.

**Welcome To September 2023. Do Have A Fruitful Month.**

Yours In His Vineyard



Dr Victory Godspower  
**(TPI President)**

# UP COMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER, 2023

**THE PLATFORM INTERNATIONAL**  
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## THE WAYS OF THE EAGLE

MONDAY 4TH SEPT. 2023

Isaiah 40:3



ROCKY & SUSAN BYERS (USA)  
DR. VICTORY GODSPOWER  
President TPI International

**zoom**  
MEETING ID: 879 1371 8618 | PASSCODES: 853358

SOUTHERN AFRICA 17PM	WEST AFRICA 16PM	EAST AFRICA 18PM	USA 11:00 AM (EST)	INDIA 20:30 PM (UTC + 5:30)	MAURITIUS 19:00 PM (UTC +4)
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## Time to Recalibrate

11th Sept. 2023

**zoom**  
Meeting ID: 879 1371 8618  
Passcodes: 853358

SOUTHERN AFRICA 17PM	WEST AFRICA 16PM	EAST AFRICA 18PM	USA 11:00 AM (EST)	INDIA 20:30 PM (UTC + 5:30)	MAURITIUS 19:00 PM (UTC +4)
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ROCKY & SUSAN BYERS (USA)  
DR. VICTORY GODSPOWER  
President TPI International

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## THE JOURNEY OF A PROPHET

MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

**zoom**  
Meeting ID: 879 1371 8618  
Passcodes: 853358

SOUTHERN AFRICA 17PM	WEST AFRICA 16PM	EAST AFRICA 18PM	USA 11:00 AM (EST)	INDIA 20:30 PM (UTC + 5:30)	MAURITIUS 19:00 PM (UTC +4)
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DR. VICTORY GODSPOWER  
President TPI International  
PROPHET WELMA BATTE  
South Africa

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## KEEP THE FAITH

MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

**zoom**  
Meeting ID: 879 1371 8618  
Passcodes: 853358

SOUTHERN AFRICA 17PM	WEST AFRICA 16PM	EAST AFRICA 18PM	USA 11:00 AM (EST)	INDIA 20:30 PM (UTC + 5:30)	MAURITIUS 19:00 PM (UTC +4)
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DR. VICTORY GODSPOWER  
President TPI International  
PASTOR MARTIN DUFFY (USA)

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**8th**  
Anniversary **&** *Leaders*  
CONFERENCE  
Global Church



**DR. LONNY  
BINGLE**  
(USA)



**DR. VICTORY  
GODSPOWER**  
(SA) - HOST



**PASTOR RICHARD  
GIOVANNETTI**  
(USA)



**DR. ABEL  
DAMINA**  
(NIG)

# THE GATE KEEPERS

**WED. 4TH - SAT. 7TH OCTOBER, 2023**

**Morning Session**  
**10:00am - 12:00 Noon Daily**

**Evening Session**  
**6:00pm - 8:00pm Daily**

**@ THE CROWN CHURCH HEADQUARTERS.**  
**45 Georginia Street Horizon Roodepoort. 1724,**  
**Johannesburg South.**

**For More information Call:**

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