****

**BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION**

Dr. Mike Wells

Everything you see that is a tangible product of a ministry is really a byproduct or a offspring from the strong foundation of that ministry. The great churches all have strong foundations. If we are not careful, we will be so fascinated by the bigness that we ignore the foundations that made the bigness possible.

1. Put forth your best efforts in the Nursery Department:

 A. Best rooms

 B. Best workers

 C. Best organization

 D. Best leader

2. Three rules to follow with adults:

 A. Reach them

 B. Train them

 C. Use them

3. Manicure the lawn.

 A. Assistant pastor Mark Butler over this program.

 B. Assisting him laymen Al Hughs.

 C. The Lawn Crew made up of ten boys grades 7-12.

4. Do something to the outside of your buildings and grounds once a year as needed.

5. Remodel the bathrooms every 5 to 7 years as needed.

6. Fix the little things now, not later.

 A. Once a quarter Jack Bachman walks the property for me listing all repairs or things to be refreshed.

 B. Staff and faculty are encouraged to fill out a Work Requisition for any work that they see needing done on the property. This is then turned in to Dr. Bachman who meets with the maintenance man.

 C. He meets with the maintenance man every Tuesday to assign projects.

 D. The maintenance program operates off of a budget..

7. Drive up to your property once a month and pretend you are a first time visitor.

8. Look for needs of starting a new adult Sunday school class.

9. Always start on time.

10. Have a disciplined choir entrance.

11. Work on filling every choir chair.

 A. Space them out and their seating until you can feel the choir.

 B. Then when it comes time to say have them to me together.

12. Use greeters at the auditorium main entrance.

13. Use ushers in the service.

 A. Open doors, greet people.

 B. Pass out visitor’s cards and other items.

 C. Pass the offering plates.

 D. When you have people that raise their hand on the invitation.

 E. Offered to walk people down the aisle to receive Christ.

14. Create an exciting atmosphere.

15. Have a disciplined music program.

16. Spontaneous humor - take advantage of it.

17. Conduct the best weddings in town.

18. Conduct the best funerals in town.

19. Obey your budget and pay your bills.

20. Start a class for graduating high school seniors from June to September.

21. Variety

 A. Sunday school — educate

 B. Sunday AM — encourage

 C. Sunday PM — exhort

 D. Wednesday PM — educate

22. Preach thinking sermons with practical truth.

23. Teach Bible study series on Wednesday nights.

24. Have music recitals.

25. Have pre-services for children and teenagers.

 A. Sunday school on Sunday mornings.

 B. Bible blazers and Young fundamentalists on Sunday nights.

 C. That’s the pirate on Wednesday nights for children and singing practice for the team choir on Wednesday nights.

 D. The key to getting adults near is having something there for their children.

26. Provide activities for the children and teenagers

 A. Neighborhood Bible club.

 B. Bus routes

 C. Monthly activities or activities once a quarter

 B. Sports programs: boys baseball, boys basketball, girls volleyball, peewee soccer.)

27. Banquets:

 A. Teen

 B. Bus

 C. Mother/Daughter

 D. College & Career

 E. Valentines

30. Spring Campaigns and Fall Campaigns should be geared to bring adults to Sunday school.

31. Build up the adult crowd.

32. Do not let the byproduct lull you into a sense of security.

33. Check your vital signs once a quarter:

 a) Men count

 b) Car count

 c) Money count

34. Every pastoral staff man must do two things:

 a) Maintenance

 b) Production

35. Visit absentees now!

36. Every new adult first timer should receive a minimum of two contacts the first week.

37. A nicely kept building is important. (Have Give-It-All’s or “First Fruits” offerings to pay for capital improvements).

38. Never be quick to run anybody off from attending church. Think about how hard it was to get them to attend the first time.

39. Never get between the arguments of people who do not give you veto power.

40. Set up a class captain follow up system for the adult Sunday school class.

41. Win adults to Christ weekly.

42. Go after the parents of the children who ride church transportation.

43. Place your best adult teachers as adult teachers.

44. Go after your absentees and get them committed to attend on the big day.

45. Pray for your class daily.

46. Keep good class records.

47. Announce birthdays and anniversaries that are placed on the pulpit.

48. Include some adults, who are on the fence, in a sermon.

49. Have your office send birthday and anniversary cards to all members and visitors.

50. You better show up for four events in their life:

 a) Marriage

 b) Birth of a baby

 c) Hospital

 d) Death

51. Have an annual stewardship month and get the adults committed to give.

52. Wait until you have the finances to give birth to a new ministry.

53. Let one of three things veto new ministries:

 a) Faculty

 b) Finances

 c) Facilities

54. What will not build a church:

 a) A Transportation Ministry

 b) A Servicemen’s Ministry

 c) Educable Slow Ministry

 d) Deaf Ministry

55. Create jobs that will force you to enlist adults:

 a) Parking Lot Attendants

 b) Sound System Workers

 c) Helpers for Sunday school teachers

 d) Hospital and Shut in Visitation

 f) Food for families who have lost loved ones in death.