

ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS **ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS**

HELP THE CHURCH GROW

George Barna is one of America's most famous surveyors. He analyzes popular beliefs and trends in American culture. In one of his surveys Barna examined data of people who visited a local congregation. He found that...

- **78 percent loved being greeted at the end of the service by individuals who sat near them.**
- **72 percent did not want to stand and be recognized during the service.**
- **70 percent enjoyed receiving information about the church while present.**
- **65 percent did not want a name tag.**
- **64 percent did not want the preacher coming to their house.**

You and I know there is more to congregational growth than numbers. Yet when we consider the story of the phenomenal growth of the church in the book of Acts, we must realize that a number is a person (Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:1; 9:31).

So what can you do to help this congregation grow (in every way, including in numbers)?

1. Introduce yourself to guests who sit near you. If 78 percent of visitors appreciate being greeted, then let us ALL be greeters!
2. Invite people to Bible class. We invite people to be our guests at worship services, but class time is more relaxed and gives our guests opportunity to be greeted by and meet more people. If they have children with them, walk them to their classes.
3. Smile! It is incredible what happens when we smile at others.
4. Ask guests to sit with you during worship. This helps them feel like they have someone and are not all alone.
5. Ask guests to join you for a meal. Social interaction opens doors that no formal worship assembly can hope to open. When people see us away from the church building, they can more easily realize that we are seriously trying to follow Jesus.
6. Practice remembering names. Then do your best to learn and remember the names of any guests. People love to be called by their name (3 John 1:14).

Robert