



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

# SKYVIEW BULLETIN

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## GROWTH vs. STATUS QUO



Everyone who has studied the New Testament knows that God expects the church to grow. God has provided the seed, the Word of God, and He has provided the soil, the hearts of men and women. He expects us to find the soil and plant the seed. He will give the increase.

But not every Christian shares the belief that the church is to grow. Regardless of the fact that the 1st Century church grew on a daily basis, with people being added daily (Acts 2:47), many are satisfied with a "status quo."

Often members of a congregation are happy with their present size. They see any increase in numbers as a potential danger. "When we start adding people to our number, we are opening the door for all kinds of problems," is the thinking of some.

I have known of congregations when planning a VBS, do not invite neighborhood children because they feel that such efforts should be directed to the member's children. "We don't want to be babysitters for outsiders," is often offered as an objection to inviting children whose parents are not members of the congregation. This attitude overlooks the fact that a great door of opportunity is opened to teach the gospel, not only to children, but to the parents of these children who visit.

The status quo attitude is also manifested in the way some congregations welcome visitors. Or maybe I should say in the way they don't make visitors feel welcomed. A visitor can come into the building and walk past a dozen or more members who are standing around visiting with each other without a single word spoken to the visitor. Often a visitor will find a seat, only to be told by a member of the congregation, "That's my seat. You will have to move to another."

Another way the status quo attitude is seen is by objecting to any method of evangelism that has never been done before. Many church members are living in the past as far as ways of evangelism are concerned. I have actually heard some object to the use of Power-Point presentations in sermons. I have heard objections to Internet evangelistic programs. I have heard members who are unhappy because the congregation decided to "break tradition" and try a new method of reaching the lost. It doesn't matter if the method is scriptural, if it is new or something different, some will object because "we have never done that before." I remember the days when objections were raised over the use of over-head projectors. "Why can't the preacher just use the black board to illustrate the sermon?" was asked. I'm sure when black boards first began to be used, some objected to this "new" method of teaching. All of this is indicative of a status quo attitude. We are happy with our present size—we don't need to add to our numbers. Let's not do anything that may appeal to someone to visit our worship services and learn the truth about Jesus. While this attitude may please some, we can be sure that God is not pleased with it.

**Many church members are living in the past as far as ways of evangelism are concerned.**

### ELDERS

*Ron Bastien  
Don Greenlee  
Charles Murray  
David Roberts*

### DEACONS

*Ron Bentz  
Frank Edwards  
Jim Ingram  
George Loyd  
Andy Murray  
Dennis Trask  
Brad VanHaerents*

### PREACHER

*Charles Murray*

### MEN WE SUPPORT

*William Stewart--Kingston, Canada  
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe  
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

### WORSHIP TIMES

#### SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.  
Classes.....10:50 A.M.  
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

### WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N  
PO Box 3118  
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

WEB: [skyviewchurch.org](http://skyviewchurch.org)

Sermons & classes now on Comcast

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WEBSITE**

**MAY 2010 BE THE BEST  
YEAR EVER!**

(Back)

I believe some churches just do not want to grow. They have grown comfortable with their size and they are worried that new members will bring new problems and baggage with them so the best way to prevent this is to discourage growth.

Often sermons that are preached from the pulpit discourage growth. I certainly realize the need to preach the truth, to expose error and to preach against certain lifestyles that are condemned by the Bible. We are told to "contend for the truth" (Jude 3). But we are also told to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). I remember visiting a small congregation where the sermon was on the qualifications of elders. I looked around and the only man besides my myself was a teen age boy who obviously was not qualified to serve. I could not help but wonder who this preacher was preaching to. I have also visited congregations where the preacher used the opportunity to blast away at the false doctrines of denominational visitors in the audience, calling the denomination of which they were members by name. Again, I know the Bible tells us to condemn error, but do we have to make a visitor feel so uncomfortable that they go away upset resolved never to set their foot in the building again? When this happens we have probably lost all chances of ever teaching this individual the truth.

**Some members have the wrong concept of the church. They think the church is a "resort hotel for saved people," when actually it is a "hospital for the lost."**

Some members have the wrong concept of the church. They think the church is a "resort hotel for saved people," when actually it is a "hospital for sinful people." Jesus taught that the well don't need a physician. When we ignore visitors, when we consistently preach sermons that are purposely designed to drive people away, when we fail to provide ways to reach the lost, when we do not provide resources for finding the building, we are well on the way to having a small-church mentality. When a congregation does not keep up the physical property and the building and yard is in disrepair and unsightly, this discourages growth.

There are other things that discourage growth, but I hope these have challenged us to think. I hope we will be motivated to ask ourselves the question, "Are we dedicated to growth or are we content with the status quo? I hope that each of us will examine our attitudes toward the lost and our responsibility to reach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I hope that every member will be devoted to reaching and teaching at least one person in 2010. God said "those who wins souls are wise" (Proverbs 11:30). Those who don't are unwise. We can choose to be wise, or we can choose to be unwise.

I am thankful that we at Skyview are not hindered by a "no-growth" attitude. We have in place several positive things that will help us to grow both spiritually and numerically. We encourage each of you to actively be involved in these programs. We have a GREETERS PROGRAM that assures our visitors are greeted and welcomed. We have the "TOUCHES" program which enables us to "touch" someone by doing something good and by that good deed influence them to visit our worship services. We have a "FRIENDS DAY" coming soon. Let's all get busy and invite our friends to worship with us on this day. We have our SUMMER SERIES with special lessons from different area preachers on Sunday evenings. The theme is "WALKING WITH GOD." This is a great opportunity to invite someone to hear the word of God on these special Sunday evenings. We are planning a VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL this summer, but we are going to conduct it in the evening with the hope that more adults will attend with their children. We also are ready to begin the INTERNET BIBLE STUDY program. This program will enable people to go online, sign up for a study and be able to learn via a PowerPoint presentation that they will see on their computer screen. They will be able to ask questions and they can be asked questions by the host. We are going to redo our GROUP MEETINGS and place the emphasis on spiritual things with a devotion being the focus of these meetings. These are some of the efforts planned for 2010 that will be conducive to growth. We hope that you will "get-on-board" and help with these efforts. We hope that you will pray for the success of these efforts. We want everyone to be a part of this work. But, if for some reason, you do not want to see growth in the congregation, if you are satisfied with the status quo, please stand out of the way and don't be a hindrance to those of us who want growth. God has some great things planned for Skyview this year. We can be a part of that or we can watch. We can encourage those who participate or we can say, "It won't work." What are you going to do?



**Adult  
Auditorium  
New class  
beginning in  
January:  
The Life Of Christ**

**GOD'S  
PLAN OF SALVATION**  
**Believe—Heb. 11:6**  
**Repent—Luke 13:3**  
**Confess—Rom. 10:9**  
**Be Baptized—**  
**Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,**  
**1 Pet. 3:21**