





Total Member Involvement



TMI & Personal Ministries

The personal ministries department is to “enlist all members and children in some form of personal outreach (missionary) service.”

Church Manual, p. 132.



If every member was involved in some form of personal outreach service, would the church grow?



If every member was involved in some form of personal outreach service, would the church grow?

That depends.



“Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them—the burden of **leading souls into the truth.**”

Christian Service, p. 69





Prepare the Soil

- ✓ Perform intentional acts of kindness
- ✓ Provide compassionate service and comprehensive health ministry



“The sowers of the seed have a work to do
in preparing hearts to receive the gospel.
... In Christlike sympathy we should come
close to men individually, and seek to
awaken their interest in the great things



“of eternal life. ... the love of Christ, revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart, **so that the seed of truth can take root.**”

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 57



“When properly conducted, the health work is an entering wedge, **making a way** for other truths to reach the heart.”



“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.’”



Plant

Plant the Word

- ✓ Share truth-filled literature and media
- ✓ Share personal testimony
- ✓ Invite to church events or to take Bible studies



“He who continually goes forth weeping, **bearing seed for sowing**, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Psalm 126:6



“The dissemination of the truth of God is not confined to a few ordained ministers. The **truth is to be scattered by all** who claim to be disciples of Christ.”



“Satan is now seeking to hold God’s people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part **in spreading the truth**, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting.”

Christian Service, p. 37



“If there is one work more important than another, it is that of **getting our publications before the public**, thus leading them to search the Scriptures.”

Colporteur Ministry, p. 7



“More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of **our publications.**”

Evangelism, p. 693



“In a large degree through **our publishing houses** is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 140



“The truth must not be muffled now. Plain statements must be made. Unvarnished truth must be spoken, in **leaflets and pamphlets**, and these must be scattered like the leaves of autumn.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 231



Cultivate

Cultivate Interest

- ✓ Give ongoing Bible studies
- ✓ Bring to small group Bible studies or evangelistic meetings



Note: Bible studies are the heart of the evangelistic process.



History of Bible Studies

- ✓ Stephen Haskell preached a sermon in 1883 using the question and Bible answer format to engage the crowd during a loud storm.



History of Bible Studies

- ✓ Elder W.C. White told his mother, Ellen White, about the impact the sermon had on the people.



History of Bible Studies

- ✓ In those days the truth was spread by preaching in large tents or by sharing tracts.



History of Bible Studies

- ✓ But Ellen White said God showed her a reformation in vision in which His people were sharing the truth using the same Q&A method Elder Haskell used in his sermon.



“In visions of the night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God’s people. ...
Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them



“the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side **doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth.**”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 126



History of Bible Studies

- ✓ With this divine encouragement, Elder Haskell began promoting lay-given Bible readings, which we today refer to as Bible studies.



History of Bible Studies

- ✓ The power of this new method of sharing the truth was that it wasn't only the ministers that could do it—hundreds and thousands of **church members** were to give Bible studies.



“The plan of holding Bible readings [*studies*] was a **heaven-born** idea.”

Christian Service, p. 141



Harvest Decisions

- ✓ Gain decisions in evangelistic meetings and other sermons
- ✓ Gain decisions in Bible studies



“The **harvest truly is great**, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Luke 10:2



“If there is not a decided application of the truth to their hearts, if words are not spoken at the right moment, **calling for decision** from the weight of evidence already presented, the convicted ones pass



“on without identifying themselves with Christ, the golden opportunity passes, and they have not yielded, and they go farther and farther away from the truth, farther away from Jesus and never take their stand on the Lord’s side.”



Note: When the seed sown has grown to maturity, it is vital that we **reap the harvest**. Beyond merely educating people, we must lead them to **make decisions** to follow Christ and Bible truth.



“Too much **hasty work** is done in adding names to the church roll. Serious defects are seen in the characters of some who join the church. Those who admit them say, ‘We will first get them into the church, and then



“reform them.’ But this is a mistake. The very first work to be done is the work of reform. Pray with them, talk with them, but **do not allow them** to unite with God’s people in church relationship until they



“give decided evidence that the Spirit of God is working on their hearts.”

The Review and Herald, May 21, 1901



“The test of discipleship is not brought to bear as closely as it should be upon those who present themselves for baptism. It should be understood whether those who profess to be converted are simply taking the name of Seventh-day Adventist, or



“whether they are taking their stand on the Lord’s side, to come out of the world and be separate and touch not the unclean thing. When they give evidence that they fully understand their position, they are to be accepted. But when they show that they



“are following the customs and fashions and sentiments of the world, they are to be faithfully dealt with. If they feel no burden to change their **course of action**, they should not be accepted as members of the church. The Lord wants those who



“compose His church to be true, faithful stewards of the grace of Christ.”

Pastoral Ministry, p. 164



“God would be **better pleased** to have six truly converted to the truth ... than to have sixty make a nominal profession, and yet not be thoroughly converted.”

Evangelism, p. 320



Preserve & Train

- ✓ Provide systematic discipleship plan for mentoring new members
- ✓ Train members in soul-winning service
- ✓ Nurture members



“Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”

Luke 17:33



“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”

Luke 6:40

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 303

“The professed followers of Christ are on trial before the heavenly universe; but the coldness of their zeal and the feebleness of their efforts in God’s service mark them as unfaithful. If what they are doing were the best they could do, condemnation would

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 303

"not rest upon them; but were their hearts enlisted in the work, they could do much more. They know and the world knows that they have to a great degree lost the spirit of self-denial and cross bearing. Many there are against whose names will be found

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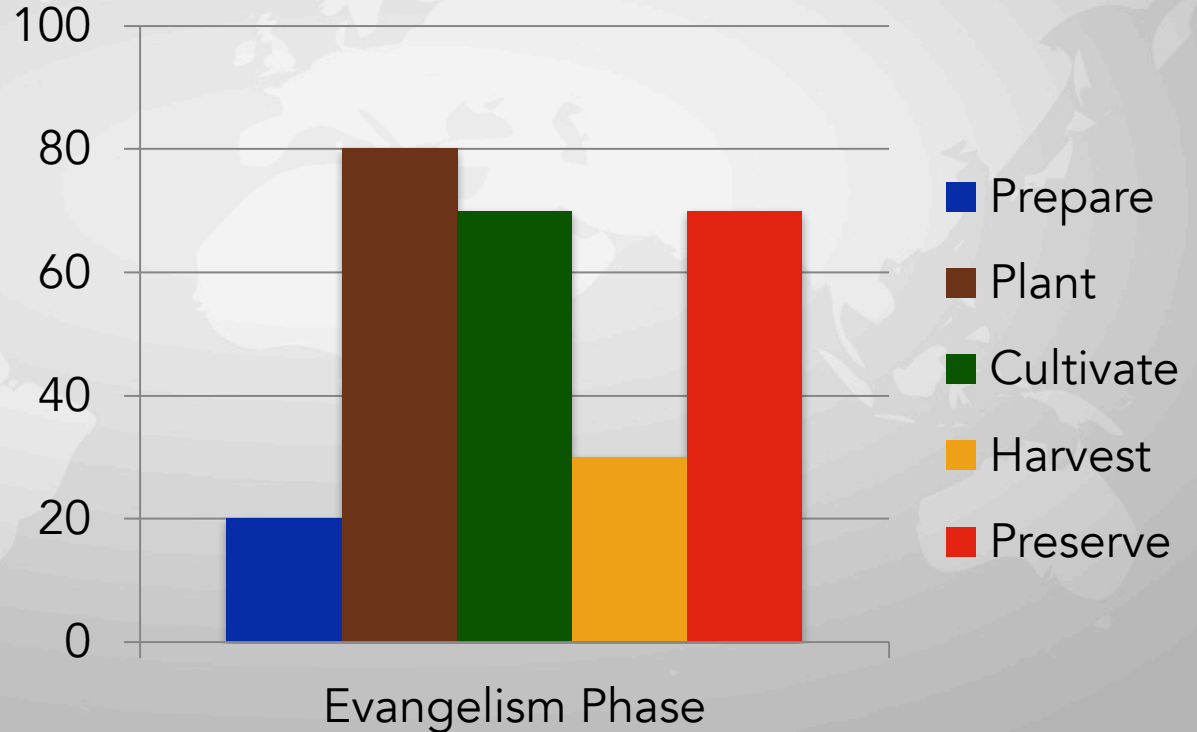
Christ's Object Lessons, p. 303

“written in the books of heaven, Not **producers**, but **consumers**.”



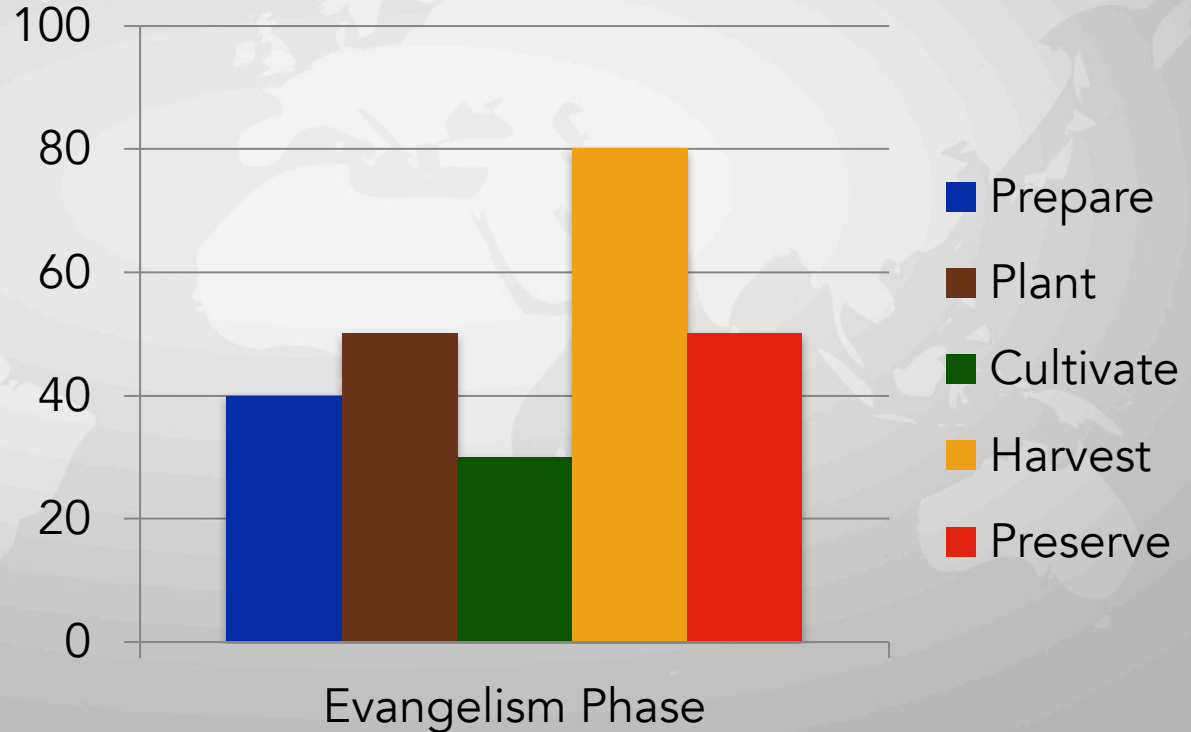
Local Church Growth Potential

Every Church Has Different **Strengths & Weaknesses**



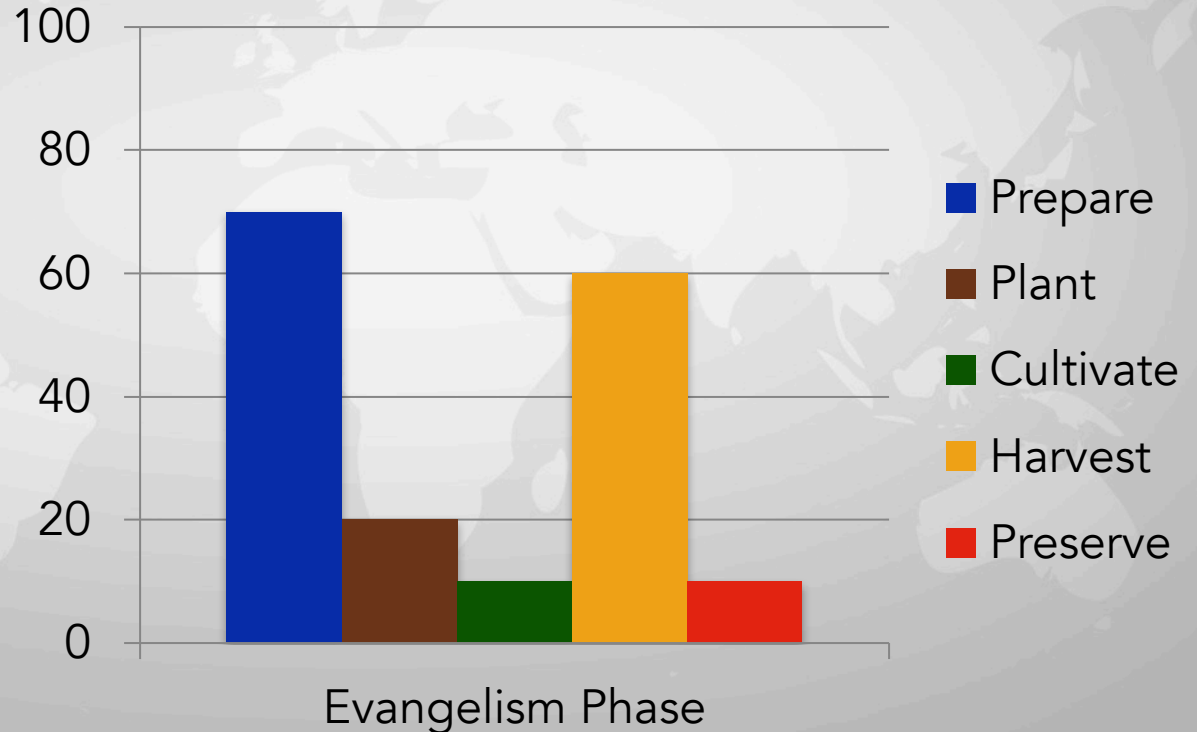
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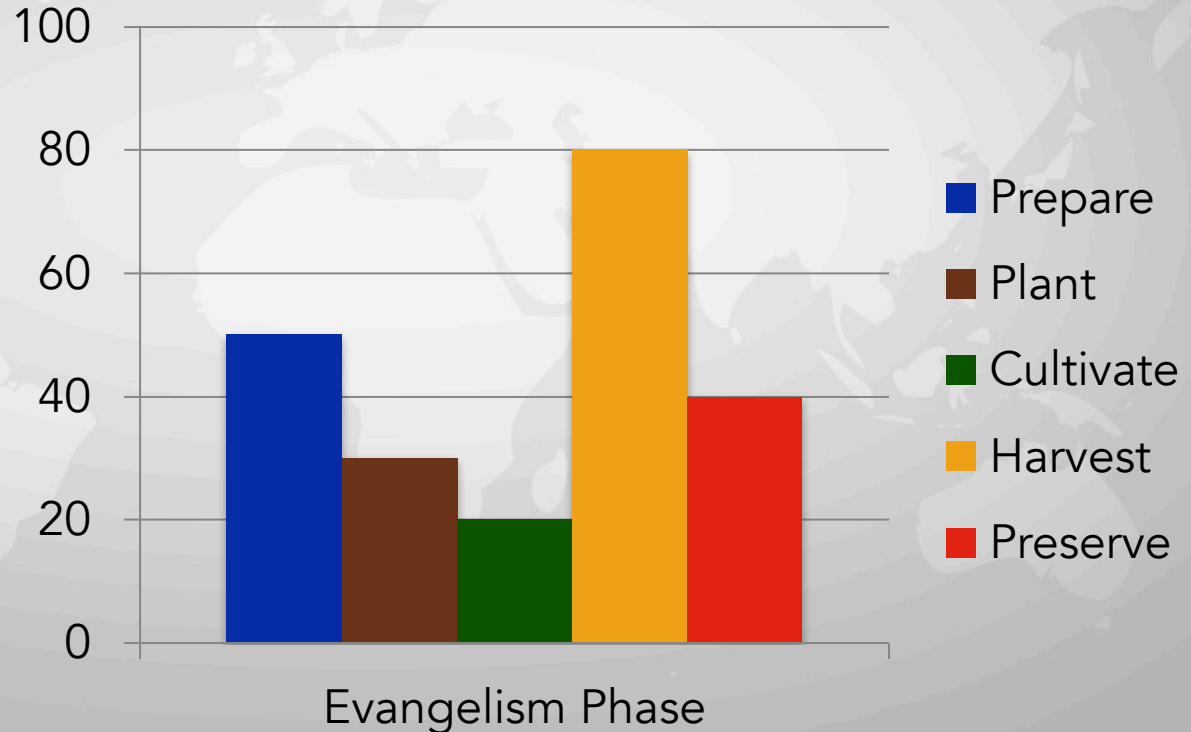
Local Church Growth Potential

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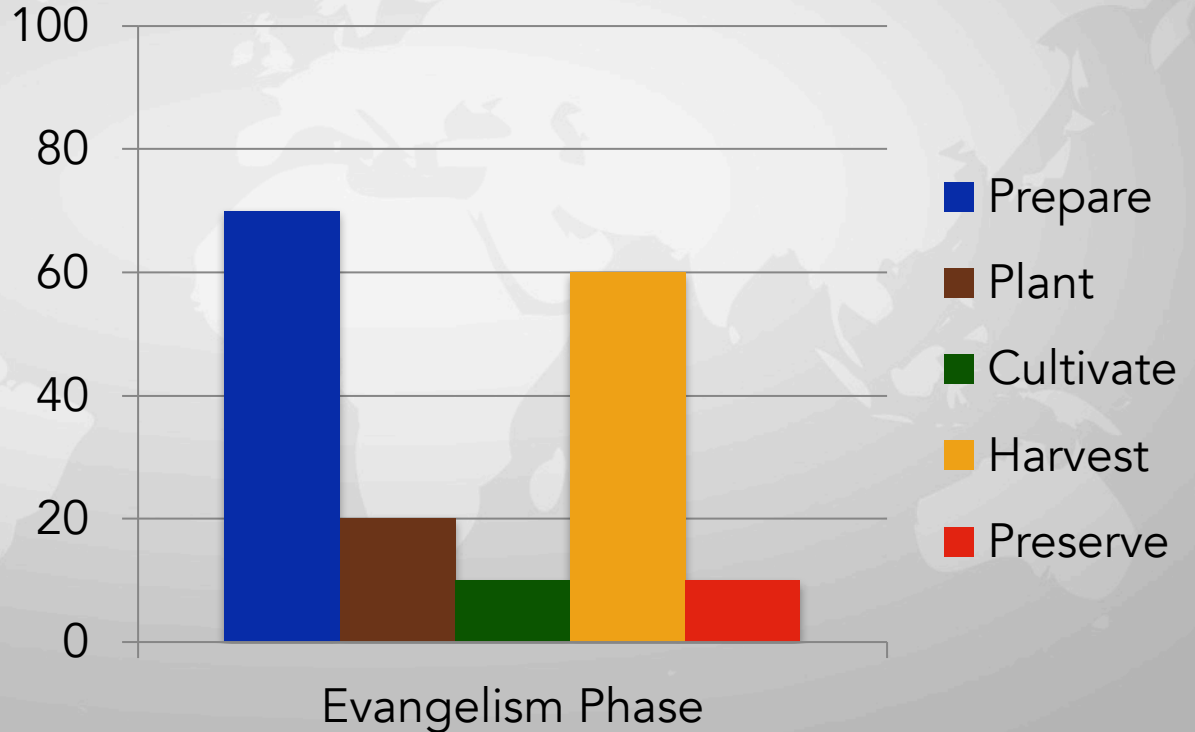
Local Church Growth Potential

We should evaluate the strength or weakness of **each phase**



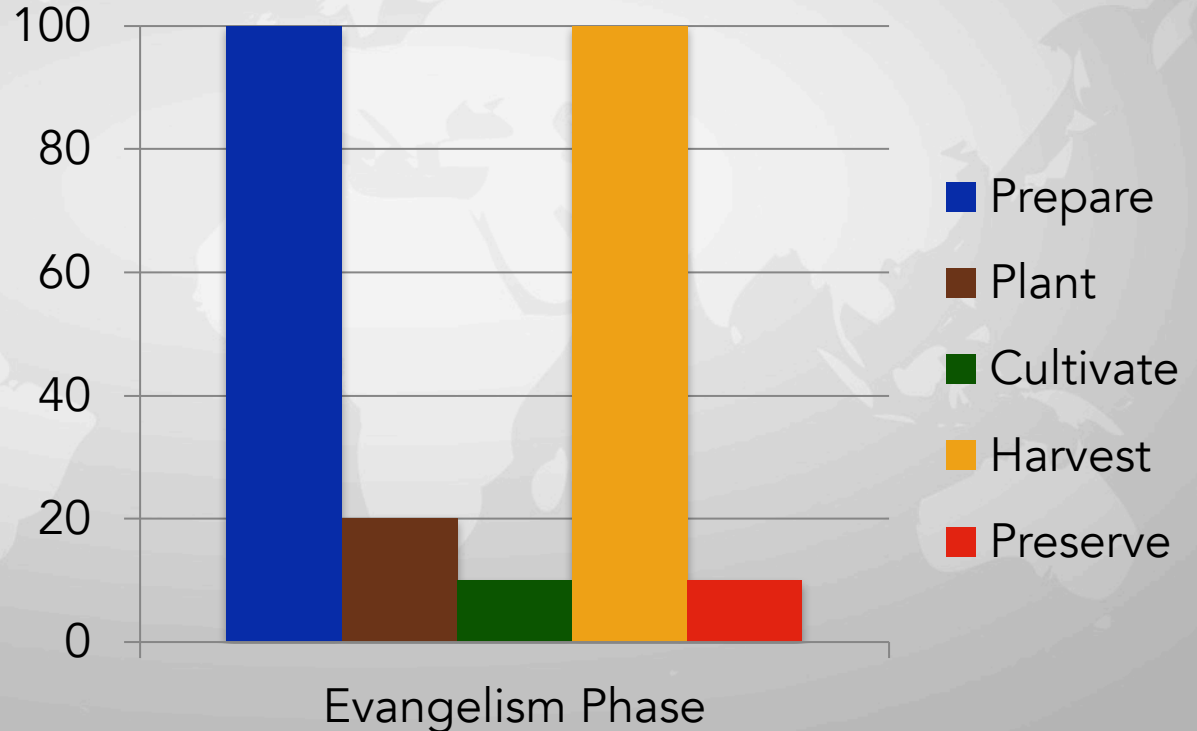
Local Church Growth Potential

The key is to recognize that **every** phase of soul-winning is **essential**



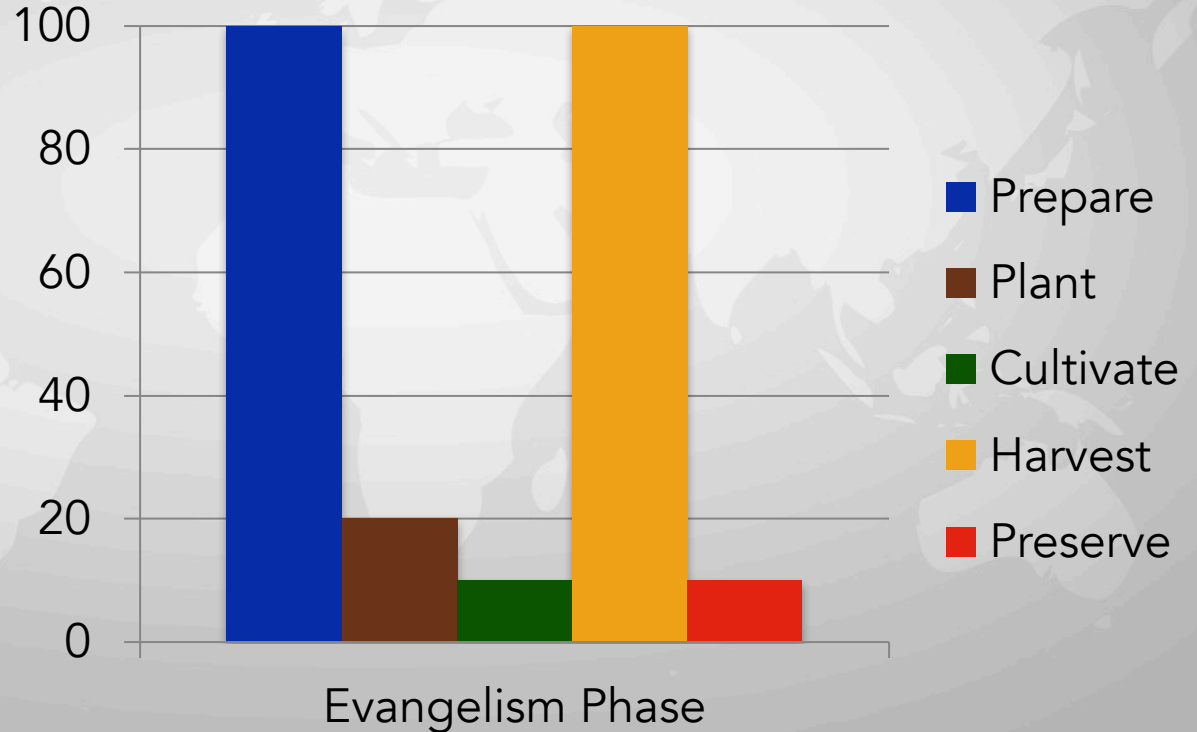
Local Church Growth Potential

We can't just focus on one or two areas and neglect the others



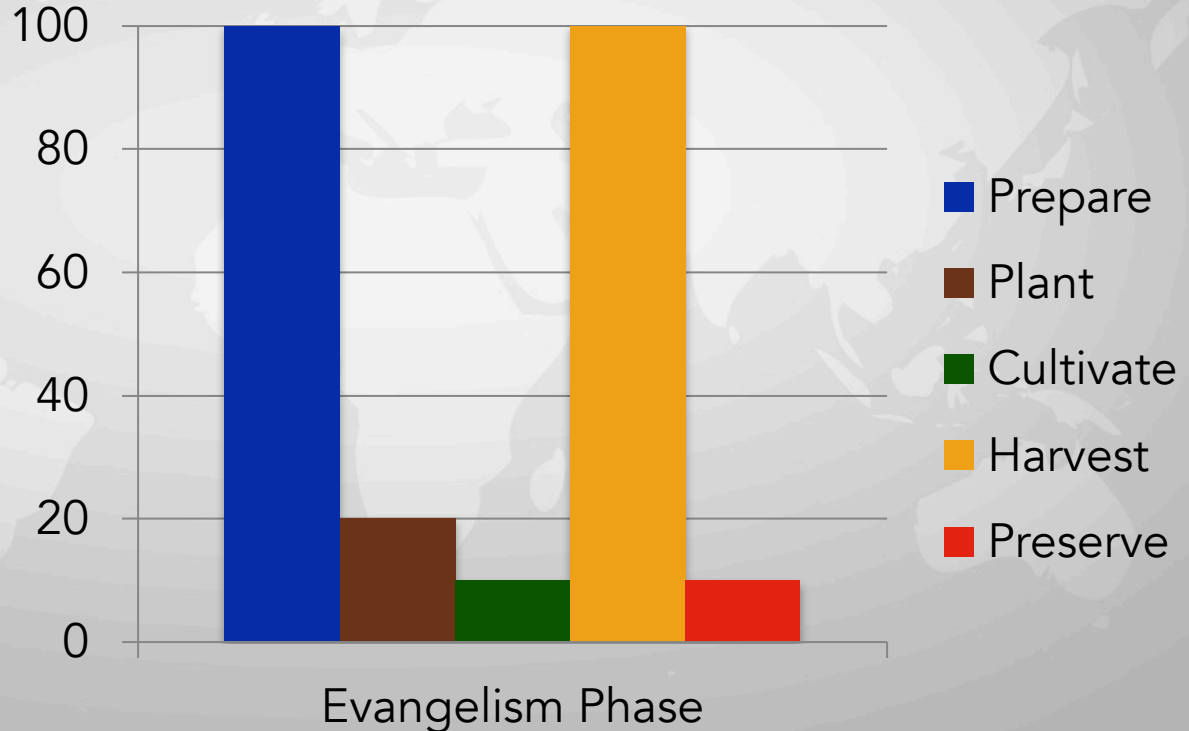
Local Church Growth Potential

This results in a **Growth Bottleneck** that limits church growth...



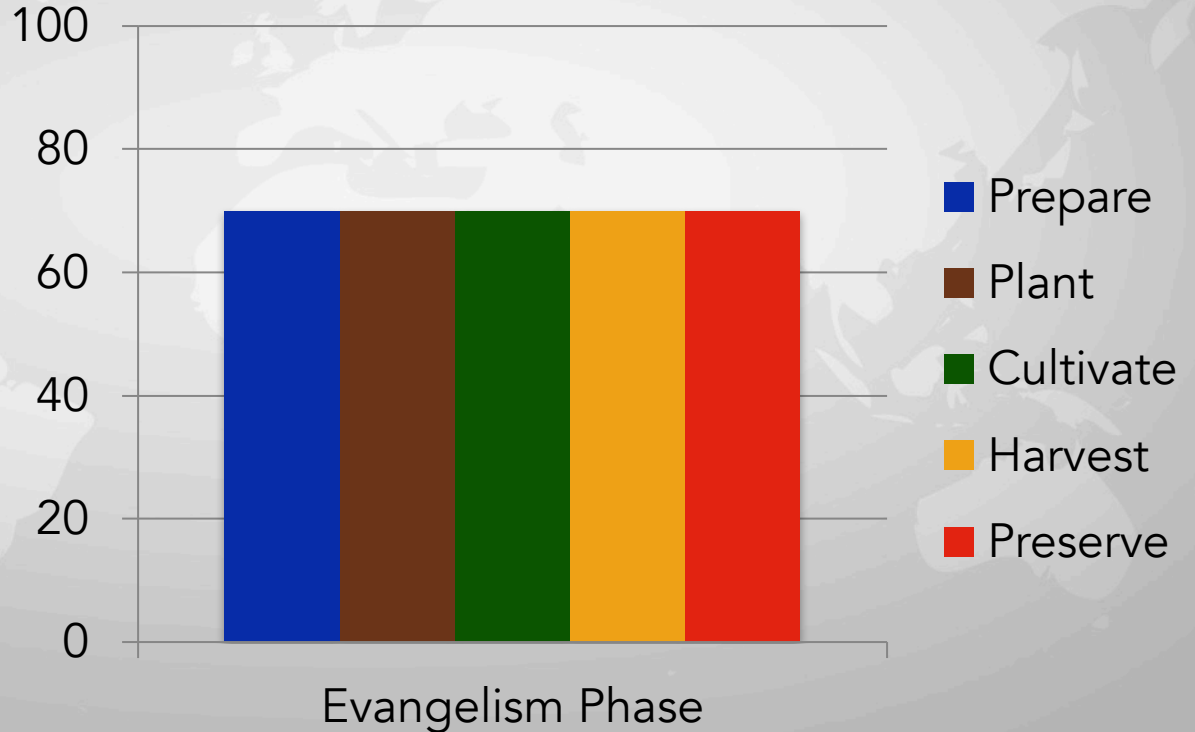
Local Church Growth Potential

...and causes
our evangelism
to become out
of balance



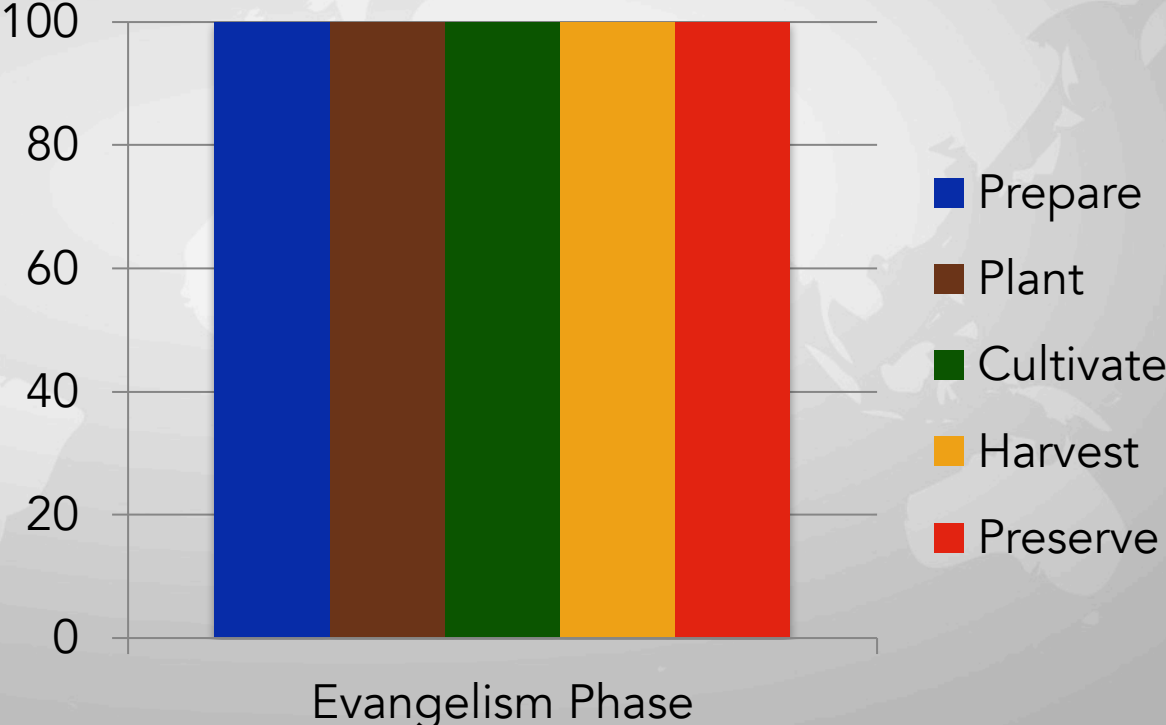
Local Church Growth Potential

We must
revitalize
every phase,
always
working
toward...



Local Church Growth Potential

**Total
Member
Involvement**





Question: If every member was involved in some form of personal outreach service, would the church grow?





GROW

[YOUR CHURCH]





GROW



[YOUR CHURCH]









GROW

[YOUR CHURCH]





Local churches must have balanced plans that value the importance of every phase of the soul-winning cycle.



Only then will Total Member Involvement result in:

Total Church Growth!



The 5 GROW Goals

Include one goal for each essential phase



Prepare Goal:

Church-wide
Community Need-Based Ministries
in every local church



Plant Goal:

Active
Literature & Media Ministry
in every local church



Cultivate Goal:

Vibrant
Bible Study Ministry
in every local church



Harvest Goal:

Regular
Evangelistic Meetings
in every local church



Preserve Goal:

Systematic
Discipleship Ministry
in every local church



5 Goals

for every local church

1. Church-wide Community Need-Based Ministries
2. Active Literature Ministry
3. Vibrant Bible Study Ministry
4. Regular Evangelistic Meetings
5. Systematic Discipleship Ministry



"I planted, Apollos watered...
but God gave the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6



Resources & Initiatives

- ✓ Over the next three years, GC SSPM will provide resources and promote initiatives to help churches achieve all five of the GROW goals.



“Many would be willing to work **if they were taught how to begin**. They need to be instructed and encouraged. Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be



“taught how to give Bible readings [studies], how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted. There should



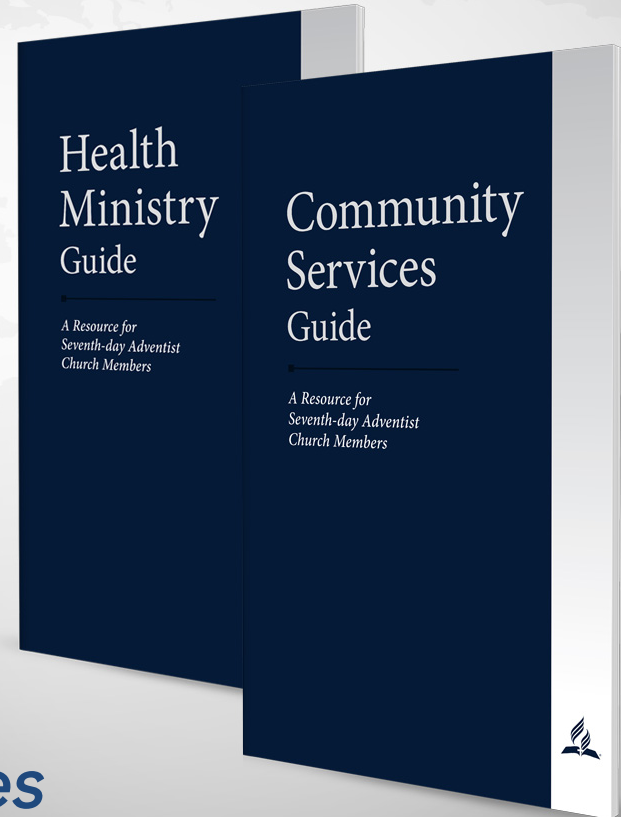
“be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work.”



✓ Prepare Resources

- Health Ministry Guide
- Community Services Guide

GOAL: Church-wide
Community Need-Based Ministries

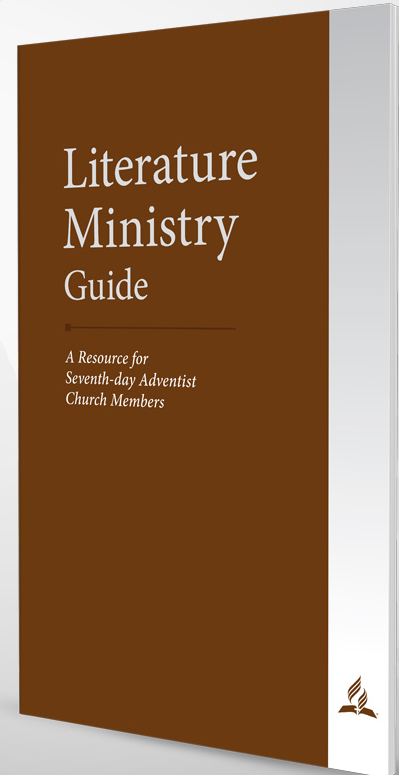




✓ Plant Resources

- Literature & Media Ministry Guide
- Mission 365

GOAL: *Active
Literature Ministry*

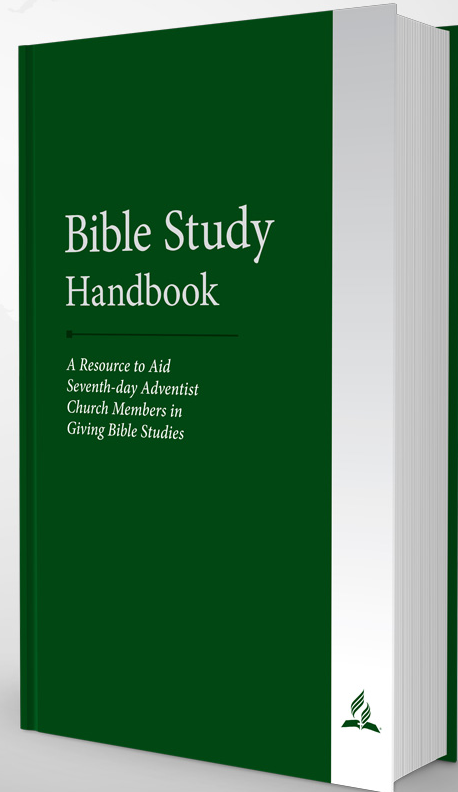




✓ Cultivate Resources

- Revitalized Bible Schools
- Bible Study Handbook

GOAL: *Vibrant
Bible Study Ministry*

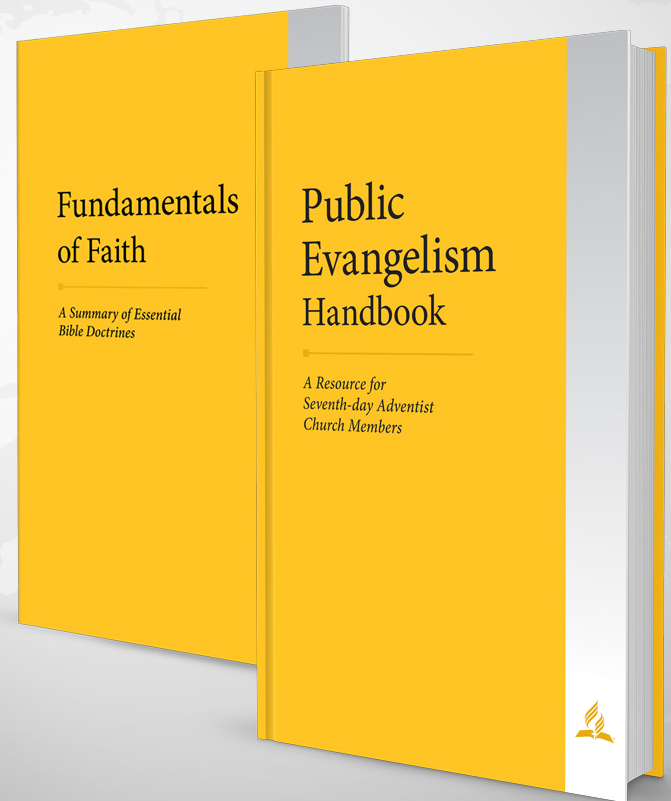




✓ Harvest Resources

- Public Evangelism Handbook
- Baptismal Guide

GOAL: Regular
Evangelistic Meetings

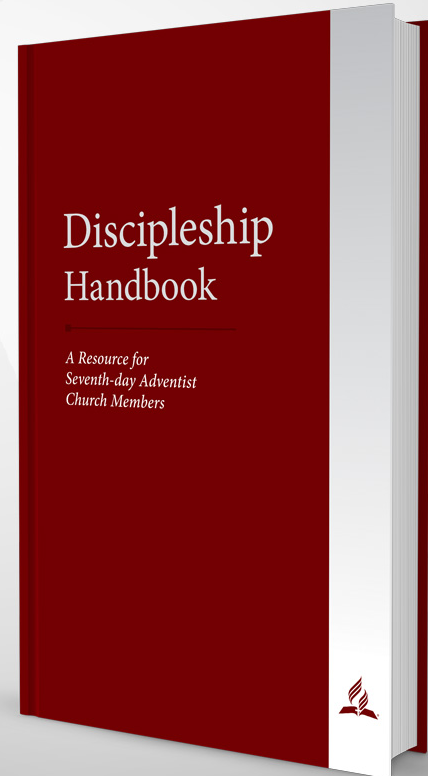




✓ Preserve Resources

- Discipleship Handbook

GOAL: *Systematic
Discipleship Ministry*



GROW
[YOUR CHURCH]



GROW Initiatives & Resources

to be made available upon development at

grow.adventist.org

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Contrasting Views

The Personal Ministries Strategic Plan takes a broad and balanced approach to evangelism rather than an “either-or” or “single-phase” perspective.



Contrasting Views

A single-phase mentality is one that fails to see the importance of every soul-winning phase. It views different aspects of evangelism as competing rather than valuable phases of the same process.



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

Single-Phase: Our church does evangelism once every year.

GROW: Successful evangelism is a year-round process that includes kindness, truth-sharing, studying, and mentoring!



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

Single-Phase: My method is friendship evangelism.

GROW: That's great! As long as we remember that no farmer prepares the soil without then sowing and reaping. We are to lead our friends "into the truth"!



Single-Phase vs. GROW

Single Phase : “ _____ is *true* evangelism.”

Evangelism: “Public evangelism”

ACS/ADRA: “Compassionate service”

Publishing: “Literature distribution”

Health: “Medical missionary work”

Youth: “Youth/children’s ministries”



Single-Phase vs. GROW

GROW: That's right! Every department of the church **IS** vital to the evangelistic mission of the church, yet each must work together toward the mission of leading souls to follow Christ and Bible truth.



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

Single-Phase: Personal evangelism is better than larger meetings and personal invitations are better than mailing flyers.

GROW: So true. But even **better** than this *either-or* mentality is to do both! Always "sow beside all waters" (Isa. 32.20).



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

“When both are combined [*extensive meetings and personal effort*], with the blessing of God, **a more perfect and thorough work** may be wrought.”

Christian Service, p. 121



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

Single-Phase: A high number of baptisms is evidence of successful soul-winning.

GROW: Not necessarily. If we baptize too hastily, without taking proper time to cultivate and harvest, it can result in more baptisms but cause unforeseen problems.



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

"Great care should be exercised in accepting members into the church; for Satan has his specious devices through which he purposes to crowd false brethren into the church, through whom



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

“he can work more successfully **to weaken the cause** of God.”



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

Single-Phase: Baptism is the goal of soul-winning.

GROW: Baptism is definitely **a** goal, but not the end goal. We must mentor and train new members to become grounded disciples who make other disciples.



Single-Phase vs. **GROW**

“One soul, won to the truth, will be instrumental in winning others, and there will be **an ever-increasing result** of blessing and salvation.”







Questions?

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