**Breakout Churches:** (notes from seminar presented by Dr. Allen Sorum, April 24, 2016)

Four reasons hindered-

1) ***Lack of leadership development***- lack of leadership training for Pastors and other leaders.

2) ***Unbiblical understanding of church membership***- self-centered, members see church as serving them. They have attitude that the church exists for “my” preferences or else I will leave. The “me” syndrome.

3) ***Unclear purpose***- many church members don’t know the clear purpose of the church. Without a clear and biblical purpose, members either fail to make meaningful contributions or they exit the church.

4) ***Lack of outward focus***- American churches use 95% of time and money towards the members instead of those outside the church. **Inward** focus = stagnate.

(Breakout churches – reversing negative trends, without replacing pastor. Demographics have little to do with the success as a breakout church.)

**Components of Transformational Leadership:**

(transformational means, lives of followers of such a transformational leader are transformed)

1) **Mind the Mission!**  Preaching Christ is our mission, our passion, our idealized influence to which we give our lives. This goal of bringing Christ to the world is God’s battle, through his word and leave the outcome of our preaching to him. The leader **who holds Christ up above all** and who dedicates all to Christ will have like-minded followers.

**2) Motivate the Manpower!** Christ’s love compels us, motivates us, to share it with the world. We should have a passionate articulation of our Christian mission so that pastors, parents, and teachers will teach people how to carry out this mission, how to handle law and gospel, how to listen, how to witness, how to nurture, how to understand and appreciate basic Bible teachings.

As every Christian does his part, the kingdom advances and God is glorified.

**3) Engage the Priesthood!** We all have gifts and services to offer. This attitude of giving permission, equipping, and challenging creates an environment of nurture and support for every member of Christ’s body. Knowing God’s mission for us and deciding upon our mission as a congregation, HOW DO WE PROCEED?

**4) Care for the Sheep!** Leaders -

TRAIN the flock

DEVELOP the flock

MENTOR the flock, so they can assist in task of tending and reclaiming sheep.

\*God has prepared each of us for leadership roles and through our personal experiences.

\*Invest more time into personal spiritual growth.

\*Help each other, encourage fellow leaders.

\*Get better at what you are good at doing.

**Samuel 22 – read aloud**

The battle is the Lord’s

Have total trust in the Lord.

Have confidence ----- Be bold for the Lord

**Paying the Price of Leadership**

Steps to take to manage this new future pain in a setting where change is required include:

1) Demonstrate our own relentless faith and confidence in Jesus to bless our work to achieve for his kingdom’s benefit the desired new future.

2) Demonstrate joyful optimism and cheerful resilience no matter what challenges along the way. We can be optimistic because we walk with God and our ministry is for the sake of Jesus’ name.

3) Commit to seeing the process through to the end!

4) Help the followers to see how and why the status quo must be changed. What in the status quo is robbing God of glory or his people of encouragement?

The Process:

Ask - *What is the problem?*

(what is it about the way things are now among us that must be addressed?)

(After everyone has contributed their thoughts and agreed on a way to describe the problem with the current situation, ask - Should we do something about this?

Why?

What might we do now here in view of the resources available to us and the opportunities before us to change our situation?

The first thing we want to determine before we take any steps toward a new future is the strength of the relationships in the group of leaders and followers. It’s about the relationship. The best way for me to develop as a leader is to develop as a follower of Jesus and a student of his Word.

ASK current members –

1) What brought you to Messiah?

2) What keeps you at Messiah?

3) What do we do well?

Let the pastor know what he is good at doing.

Practice discussing challenge to status quo.

Recommended reading material –

“Breakout Churches” by Thom Rainier

“Traction” Get a Grip on Your Business by Gino Wickman

“Rocket Fuel” by Gino Wickman

“Transformational Leadership” by Bernard M. Bass, Ronald E. Riggio