**Breakout Churches Notes and Discussion**

1. Preface. 400,000 churches in America. 50,000 studied by Thom Rainer. He identified just 13 as breakout churches. Soon we will discover what he means by breakout churches. Initially, what does this brief analysis lead you to consider regarding breakout churches?

**Chapter 1: Why Good is Not Good Enough: Chrysalis Factor**

1. React to his statement: “It is a sin to be good if God has called us to be great.”
2. Thom Rainer found himself greatly influenced by a book on business called Good to Great. What’s good and what’s bad about looking to a business model?
3. How do we measure great churches? How would Jesus measure a great church?
4. What does the author identify as the transition point from good to great?
5. What’s the story of Temple Church in Nashville?
6. What conversion rate defines a great church?
7. What strikes you about the list of 13 breakout churches?
8. React. “Good churches have not broken out of their mediocrity.”
9. What is the Chrysalis factor?
10. What did you find interesting about the factors that did not make any difference in creating a breakout church?
11. What are the six components of the Chrysalis factor?

**Chapter 2: Acts 6/7 Leadership**

1. What repeated trait defines a breakout church?
2. Should credit or blame focus solely on leadership?
3. React. No church transforms unless the leader transforms.
4. Is God’s call to the leader the same as the congregation’s call to the leader?
5. How do we get beyond the walls of our church?
6. React. “Passion is hard to define, but I know it when I see it.”
7. What surprised you about the analysis of 427 churches?
8. What’s the difference between “peacemakers” and those who say, “My way or the highway?
9. Slow progress or quick progress? What’s better?
10. Thin-skinned or thick-skinned leaders? What’s better?
11. Reluctant leaders or eager leaders? What’s better?

**CHAPTER THREE: Eight Keys to Acts 6/7 Leadership**. Discuss the eight keys below. *From your perspective, place them in order of priority. Identify what you consider the most challenging key and the least challenging (easiest) one. Also which key area do we need to work on more than the others?*

1. FIERCE BIBLICAL FAITHFULNESS
2. LONG TENURE
3. CONFIDENT HUMILITY
4. ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY
5. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
6. PERSISTENT
7. EVANGELISTIC PASSION
8. CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE

**CHAPTER FOUR: The ABC Moment (Awareness/Belief/Crisis Moment)**

1. What wakeup call does Messiah Lutheran need?
2. How is Messiah Lutheran mired in mediocrity?
3. What would keep the pastor or members of Messiah Lutheran from experiencing an awareness of our needs?
4. If we accept “painful awareness” what is the “is/should be discernment” for Messiah Lutheran?
5. How do we communicate to other members of Messiah Lutheran what we discover as the ABC Moment?
6. What crisis do you think this would produce at Messiah Lutheran?

**CHAPTER FIVE: The Who/What Simultrack**

1. What infrastructure gives Messiah Lutheran an advantage? (such as facilities, location, leadership groups, organizational methods, small groups)
2. How do you think we should deal with someone serving in the wrong position?
3. How do we balance management (or micromanagement) and accountability?
4. What is our purpose as a congregation?

**CHAPTER SIX: The VIP Factor (Vision Intersection Profile)**

1. “Breakout churches do not seek to discover their vision.” What does this mean?
2. React. “Vision refers to God’s specific plan for a specific church at a specific time in its history.”
3. Your thoughts? The researchers discovered: “It seems like the leaders in these churches understand how short life is, and they want to make a difference for God in the short time they have. They don’t want to waste their time doing things that don’t matter. They have vision because they stay in touch with God.”
4. What is the passion of our church leadership?
5. What do you perceive as the passion and gifts of our congregation?
6. What community needs do you see in our side of town?

**CHAPTER SEVEN: A Culture of Excellence**

1. What Bible passages come to your mind that compel us to a culture of excellence?
2. How does the VIP Factor help drive the culture of excellence?
3. Describe the Freedom/Expectation Paradox.
4. Describe what you perceive in this atmosphere and where you see our congregation in this point of our history:
5. High Expectation/High Freedom
6. Low Expectation/Low Freedom
7. High Expectation/Low Freedom
8. Low Expectation/High Freedom
9. What’s the difference between autocratic leaders and autocratic cultures?
10. How do you get the “right people” on board to pursue excellence?
11. What makes a “not-to-do” list so important?

**CHAPTER EIGHT: Innovation Accelerators**

1. Describe the difference between these two approaches:
2. Traditional/Resistor
3. Innovator/Embracer
4. What led the breakout churches to a slow, plodding path regarding innovation or change?
5. What’s the relationship between innovation and the VIP factor?
6. What happens when the tail wags the dog?
7. How does a Purpose Driven model help the congregation stay true to the VIP factor?
8. How may new construction and relocation serve as key innovations? How may such innovation serve to harm the purpose of the congregation?
9. Describe these differences:
10. Innovation trap or innovation triumph?
11. Innovation to generate growth and health or to accelerate growth and health?

**CHAPTER NINE**: **Big Mo or Blind Erosion?**

1. What is the Big Mo?
2. What are the four stages of the Big Mo?
3. Why could the researchers not find a single factor for the Big Mo?
4. What makes long-term leadership necessary for the Big Mo?
5. Describe the foundational issues that lead to the Big Mo:
6. Biblical authority
7. Primacy of preaching
8. Primacy of prayer
9. What is the blind erosion of a church?
10. Evaluate the factors that lead to blind erosion:
11. Weak theology
12. Ignorance
13. Resistant lay leadership
14. Resistant staff leadership
15. Choose one of the following descriptions of resistant staff leadership and describe its impact on the congregation:
16. Burned
17. Ignorant
18. Lazy
19. Theologically uncertain
20. Conflict avoiding
21. Accolade seeking

**CHAPTER TEN: To Become A Breakout Church**

1. How does this statement affect you? “Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the grave today, and will return tomorrow.”
2. Though written in regard to business success, how does the Jim Collin’s quote relate to our church life? “…*the deepest of all satisfactions; knowing that your short time here on earth has been well spent, and that it mattered*.”
3. What element of breakout churches cannot be documented in data or diagrams?
4. Agree or Disagree? To become a great church we must become a large church.
5. Agree or Disagree? Core values never change, but purposes do change.
6. Agree or Disagree? Christians cause more problems than non-Christians in preventing a church from becoming a breakout church.
7. Evaluate the statement: “Breakout church leaders make quick and compassionate people decisions and they move deliberately and often slowly.”
8. What will help our congregation become a high-expectation church?
9. Evaluate the statement: “God gives us just a few years in life. I don’t want to waste them doing something that doesn’t make a difference.”
10. What is “open, but cautious” innovation?
11. What is the importance of the “love relationship” in the churches?

**Where Do We Go From Here?**

1. Ongoing feeback from church members.
2. What have we discovered?
3. How many more members should we reach?
4. Do we have enough input to reach some conclusions?
5. How do we administer the Church Readiness Inventory (Appendix E)?
6. How do we discover the needs of our community?