THE BOLD CHURCH STRATEGY:
5 STEPS TO MAXIMUM GOSPEL IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

BIG IDEA: MOST CHURCH LEADERS AND OTHER COMMITTED CHRISTIANS WE MEET DESIRE TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT GOSPEL IMPACT IN THE LIFE OF THEIR CITY. BUT, THAT IS HARD TO DO IN OUR COMPLEX, DISTRACTED AND, AT TIMES, HOSTILE POST-CHRISTIAN CULTURE. FURTHER, THE INERTIA IN CHURCH IS OFTEN TOWARDS AN INWARD RATHER THAN AN OUTWARD FOCUS. DESPITE THESE CHALLENGES, CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS CAN SERVE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE CENTER OF THEIR CITIES.

THE TEST: EARLY CHRISTIANS PROCLAIMED THE WORD OF GOD WITH BOLDNESS (ACTS 4:28; 28:30-31), AND THIS CONFIDENT WITNESS GREATLY IMPACTED THE CITIES THEY LIVED OR MINISTERED IN (ACTS 17:6). THAT IS WHY WE HAVE DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION OF A "BOLD CHURCH": **A CHURCH THAT IS HAVING SIGNIFICANT GOSPEL IMPACT IN THE LIFE OF ITS CITY.** AND, HERE'S THE TEST": ASK SOMEONE WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF YOUR CHURCH OR IS UNRELATED TO YOU TO ASK A CITY LEADER IF YOU AND YOUR CHURCH ARE MAKING A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CITY.

5 STEPS TO SIGNIFICANT GOSPEL IMPACT:

1. **REIMAGINE YOUR ROLE**
2. **MASTER CULTURAL APOLOGETICS AND KNOW THE LAW**
3. **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS**
4. **IDENTIFY AND SOLVE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS**
5. **CHAMPION BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES**

1. REIMAGINE YOUR ROLE

MOST CHURCH LEADERS AND CHRISTIANS KNOW WHAT THEIR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ROLL SHOULD LOOK LIKE (MORE MEMBERS, RIGHT?). BUT WE ARE MUCH LESS CLEAR ON WHAT OUR ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD LOOK LIKE. WE EXPLAIN THE 4 BIBLICAL ROLES OF THE CHURCH IN A COMMUNITY.

2. MASTER CULTURAL APOLOGETICS AND KNOW THE LAW

AS CHRISTIANS ENGAGE THEIR COMMUNITY, THEY WILL ENCOUNTER COMMON QUESTIONS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONFIDENTLY AND PERSUASIVELY ANSWER THEM. FURTHER, CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW SOME LEGAL BASICS SO THEY CAN USE THE LAW AS A TOOL RATHER THAN AN EXCUSE.

3. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

UNLIKE MANY CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY, WE POSSESS ALMOST MAGICAL POWERS THAT OPEN THE DOORS TO THE OFFICES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS. THOSE POWERS ARE CALLED CITIZENSHIP AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE, AND WE SHOULD USE THEM. WE SHOULD MEET WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS TO PRAY WITH THEM AND PARTNER WITH THEM TO SOLVE PROBLEMS.

4. SOLVE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

IDENTIFY A MAJOR PROBLEM IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND STRATEGICALLY WORK TO SOLVE OR IMPACT THAT PROBLEM. WE EXPLAIN A PROVEN 4-STEP STRATEGY USED BY CHURCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO SOLVE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS.

5. CHAMPION BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

WE SHOULD SEEK THE COMMON GOOD BY PROMOTING BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES IN OUR CITY AND APPLYING GOSPEL-BASED SOLUTIONS TO INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS. WE PROVIDE 3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DOING THIS.

MATERIALS PROVIDED

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION
HANDOUT FOR NOTE TAKING
PHOTO AND BIO OF SPEAKER