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The GO Center is named for the Great Commission, short for the *GO & Make Disciples* *Center*. As evangelicals, we long for Great Commission effectiveness in our churches, but that effectiveness is elusive. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (Mt. 9:38). Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send your church into His harvest. The GO Center is better prepared than ever to empower and your church is invited to join with the GO Center in the GO PROJECT. Let’s do this together!

**The GO PROJECT: Great Commission Empowerment for Revitalization**

Over 80% of American Protestant churches are in plateau or decline. Your church is probably one of them. If you’re not OK with that, here’s a chance to do something about it. It’s going to be difficult and it’s going to take 18-24 months to vitalize fully, but if you’re willing to commit the time and to do the hard work, good things are in your future. You don’t do this alone because all of the personnel and resources of the GO Center are here to work alongside you. The concept is simple: The Great Commission is the vision and the Great Commission is the strategy. What’s our vision? Go and make disciples. What’s our strategy? Go and make disciples. There’s no mystery, no surprise, no secret formula and no secret sauce. It’s godly people willing to work hard through ministry that is inspired and shaped by the Great Commission.

Here’s something, though, that might be surprising. Most church folks, when asked to identify the objective of the Great Commission, answer that the objective of the Great Commission is evangelism, reaching people with the Gospel in such a way that, by the grace of God, they find salvation. That sounds right but is shortsighted. True, God is seeking the lost to bring them to salvation (Luke 19:10), but there’s a bigger objective. God is seeking worshippers that will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). That’s the long-term objective. Salvation is just the starting point, but as new believers are trained in obedience to all that Jesus commanded, they grow in maturity and, ultimately, become the true worshippers that God the Father is seeking.

Love God and love people. Prayerfully consider committing to the GO PROJECT and to seeing your church develop into a vital church that is empowered by the Great Commission.

The ROADMAP to Missional Vitality

18 – 24 Month Journey

**5 Markers: The ROADMAP to Missional Vitality – Universal & Unique Paradox**

Five markers shape a *simple* and *clear* 18-24 Month revitalization process that the GO Center identifies as the ROADMAP to Missional Vitality. This ***universal*** process is ***uniquely*** implemented by engaged churches, providing both a consistent experience that is shared with a network of churches and a customized application that is individually adapted to a given church’s ministry identity.

**Marker 1: Self-Discovery**

Congregations cannot and will not change unless they are first made aware of the need for change. Change management practitioners refer to feeling the impact of this need as *urgency*. Simply stated, without a sense of urgency there is no possibility of change. Urgency might be *negatively* motivated by losses in attendance, giving and overall ministry capacity, all hallmarks of plateau and decline. Urgency might be *positively* motivated by a renewed commitment to reaching a lost community. Often, both are in play. Self-Discovery seeks to establish that sense of urgency in the minds and hearts of a church’s leaders and congregation through education and honest assessment, and when discovery is made through self-assessment, leaders truly own their findings.

**Marker 2: Motivation**

For a congregation to move toward a Great Commission future, it must recognize where it is in the present and examine how it got there as it moved through its past, whether that past is short or long. GO Center assessment leverages the valuable dynamic of self-discovery that is central to the awareness gained in Marker 1 to create the desire to embrace needed changes and to foster the positive motivation for Great Commission actions to be taken. The willingness to change is aspirational and opens the door to needed changes, but the strong will, the strong motivation, to develop Great Commission effectiveness is truly incarnational.

**Marker 3: Skill-Training**

Development of cognitive knowledge and comprehensive skill-training are much broader than an isolated on-site event and include multiple training tools and experiences delivered over time in multiple formats such as on-site, live online, video and document downloads and more. Some are led by GO Center presenters while others are designed for self-study as individuals or groups. Once inspired and equipped, leaders and congregations are empowered for Great Commission effectiveness in reaching the harvest and growing the reached to maturity.

**Marker 4: Implementation**

The role of a coach in the implementation of skill-training is an important role. GO Center coaches are trained to come alongside church leaders that are taking the lead in the missional revitalization of their respective churches. These coaches guide leaders through *COACHWORKS!,* a comprehensive guide that supports the ability to implement successfully, and they provide answers to questions, solutions to problems and access to needed resources during the process. The key to effective coaching is that coaches establish strong, trusted relationships with church leaders and encourage these leaders to stay on task and on track in working through *COACHWORKS!*

**Marker 5: Evaluation**

Similar to assessment, evaluation leverages the dynamics of self-discovery, but this is a coach-guided self-discovery that provides accountability and measurability that reinforces the missional revitalization process. As this self-discovery unfolds, the GO Center Team reviews these findings with church leaders, again seeking buy-in as to what is really happening and why. There is a sense in which this reinforcement and evaluation serve as awareness and assessment that is similar to the markers of Self-Discovery and Motivation that were experienced at the beginning of the process. This can serve as the beginning of a second wave of revitalization, informing continued training and coaching if so desired by church leaders. The ROADMAP, then, could serve as an upward spiral that mitigates the typical drift that is experienced on the church lifecycle.

**The Missional Vitality Journey: 18-24 Months**

On average, following the ROADMAP to Missional Vitality is an 18-24 Month Journey and the GO Center Team of trainers, consultants, specialists and coaches is with church leaders all along the way. Note that Marker 1: Self-Discovery and Marker 2: Motivation are essentially prerequisites to the heart and soul of the process incorporated in Marker 3: Skill-Training and Marker 4: Implementation. So, to be *simple* and *clear*, it will take roughly 6 months to work through Markers 1 and 2 followed by 12-18 months to complete Markers 3, 4 and 5 for a total of 18-24 months. These months of strategic prayer and intensive effort enable missional revitalization to take firm hold in a church and become the new ministry culture, laying the foundation that will support missional growth and development for years to come. Self-Discovery and Motivation are preparation for the process; Skill-Training and Implementation are the core of the process; Evaluation is the debriefing and solidifying of the process.

**The Missional Leader Development Triangle**

**The ROADMAP to Missional Vitality: Markers, Checkpoints & Checklists**

**Marker 1: Self-Discovery** – Pre-Training/Investigating Vitalization

**Checkpoints:** Develop & Implement a Prayer Plan (+ *Vitalizing Prayer 1* with James Banks)

Read & Study *WITH* by Skye Jethani (or an alternate book for spiritual renewal)

Examine *10 Needs in a Vitalizing Church*

Complete the TruPoint™ Assessment Process

Assessment Tools for Data Gathering

S.W.O.T. & G.R.A.C.E. Analyses for Data Interpretation

Assessment Conference for Findings & Recommendations

MAKE THE DECISION TO VITALIZE!

**Marker 2: Motivation** – Pre-Training/Preparing for Vitalization (follow **GO Training 1** Manual)

**Checkpoints:** Mobilize GO Leader Team (GLT)

Pastor/Pastoral Staff

Elders/Officers

Key Ministry Leaders: Direction-Setters/Decision-Makers

Conduct Four Leadership Dynamics for Vitalization (4LDV) Seminar

Ministry of the Word

Ministry of Prayer

Leading through High Support

Leading through High Challenge

Select & Mobilize the Vision Team to Lead the Vitalization Initiative

Recruit & Mobilize Prayer Teams to Support the Vision Team

Lead the Congregation through *Questing for God’s Heart* Campaign\*

FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE DECISION TO VITALIZE!

**Marker 1/Marker 2 Checklist:**

[ ] Prayer Plan Developed & Implemented

[ ] Reading & Study of WITH (or alternate) Completed

[ ] Examination of *10 Needs in a Vitalizing Church* Completed

[ ] TruPoint™ Assessment Completed & Processed

[ ] Assessment Conference w/GO Center Completed

[ ] Decision to VITALIZE Made

[ ] GO Leader Team Mobilized & Four Leadership Dynamics for Vitalization Seminar Held

[ ] Vision Team Selected & Mobilized

[ ] Prayer Teams Recruited & Mobilized

[ ] *Questing for God’s Heart* Campaign\* Completed

[ ] GO Training 1 Manual Completed

**Marker 3: Skill-Training** – In-Training/Training for Vitalization with **GO Training 2** Manual

**Checkpoints:** Host a GO Center *Church Vitality Weekend*:

FRI Evening: Leader Conference – GO Leader Team, Vision Team, Prayer Teams

SAT Full Day: GO Training 2 Seminar – All Congregation

SUN Morning: Preach/Teach by GO Center

Note: Additional Training Options (to be dispersed throughout Markers 4 & 5)

*50 Days to Vitality* by Ken Priddy (free download master)

*Vitalizing Prayer 2* with James Banks

*Reaching & Mobilizing Millennials* with Bill Senyard

*Fundamentals of Cross-Cultural Ministry* with Tong Park

*X-52: Great Commission Skills for Pastors* with Ken Priddy

*The Leadership Ladder: Developing Missional Leaders in the Church\** by K Priddy

*GO Business: The Great Commission @ Work* with Ken Priddy

*Assimilation Basics* with Jeremy Malick

ETC.

\* The cost of Leadership Ladder materials is $20.00 per person and includes both the book and the workbook. These can be ordered through the GO Center. Shipping and handling are included with a minimum number of 10 sets.

**Marker 3 Checklist:**

[ ] Hosted a GO Center *Church Vitality Weekend*:

FRI Evening: GO Leader Team Conference

SAT Full Day: GO Training 2 Seminar

SUN Morning: Preach/Teach by GO Center

**Marker 4: Implementation** – Post-Training/Building Vitalization

**Checkpoints:** GO Leader Team – Lead the Congregation through *50 Days to Vitality.*

GO Leader Team – Complete *Leadership Ladder* Training.

Vision Team – Use the NOW WHAT? section of the G.O.1 Manual to plan an Implementation Timeline.

Vision Team – Use COACHWORKS! as an ongoing guide to implementing G.O.1. training.

Prayer Teams – Organize and mobilize ongoing prayer through the process.

GO Leader Team & Vision Team: Develop and execute a comprehensive strategic plan of ongoing communication to show and generate support and buy-in for the vitalization process in general and the work of the Vision Team in particular.

Pastor(s) – Complete *X-52 Great Commission Skills for Pastors* training.

GO Leader Team & Vision Team: Host *GO Business: The Great Commission @ Work* with the GO Center.

**Marker 4 Checklist:**

[ ] Planned an Implementation Timeline

[ ] Completed *COACHWORKS!* Implementation

[ ] Prayer Team supported the process in prayer

[ ] Gained congregational support & buy-in with communication

[ ] Completed *50 Days to Vitality* (optional)

[ ] Completed *Leadership Ladder* Training (optional)

[ ] Completed *Vitalizing Prayer 2* Training (optional)

[ ] Completed *Reaching & Mobilizing Millennials* Training (optional)

[ ] Completed *Fundamentals of Cross-Cultural Ministry* Training (optional)

[ ] Completed *X-52* Training (optional)

[ ] Hosted *GO Business: The Great Commission @ Work* training (optional)

**Marker 5: Evaluation** – Sustaining Vitalization

**Checkpoints:** Repeat TruPoint™ Assessments and Compare Findings to Marker 1 Findings

Convene a Conference (onsite or online) to discuss second assessment findings and consider recommendations with a GO Center consultant.

**Marker 5 Checklist:**

[ ] Completed second round of TruPoint™ Assessments and compared findings with first round of TruPoint™ findings.

[ ] Completed second assessment conference with GO Center consultant.

[ ] CELEBRATED progress made in the 18/24-Month Journey to Vitalization.

If you have questions, please forward them to

Stephen Clark (office@HVPC.org; 215-947-5500)