8 QUALITIES OF HEALTHY GROWING CHURCHES

1. **Empowering leadership**. Leadership which seeks to identify, train and empower other leaders, giving them responsibility for people and projects.

2. **Gift-orientated ministry**. Valuing the ministry of all people and the variety of gifts in the body of Christ. Helping people identify their God-given gifts, skills and abilities and encouraging each person to use them in the overall mission and ministry of the church.

3. **Passionate spirituality**. A spirituality nurtured through prayer which supernaturally naturally exudes the love of God in Christ.

4. **Inspiring worship**. Worship (whatever the style) which inspires people, enabling them to connect with God in a way which energises and sustains them, and which is such a positive experience that it is a highlight of their week, which they want to bring others along to share in.

5. **Holistic small Groups**. Commitment to small communities (6-12 people) within the larger community, which act like 'mini-church', where closer relationships can be formed, and where worship, prayer, pastoral support, ongoing discipleship, Bible application and outreach take place in a smaller setting.

6. **Need-orientated outreach**. Outreach which has a priority of discovering the practical needs in the communities served by the local church, and meeting those needs as an integral part of their overall outreach.

7. **Loving relationships.** A community where people are committed to welcoming, serving, loving, caring for, and forgiving others. Growing churches also tend to have a lot of laughter in them.

8. **Functional Structures.** Organisational and leadership structures which enable all of the above to happen rather than obstruct it! Structures which are flexible enough to change when necessary.