



Part 1 - ALIVE



Why WHY?

- * WHY is the key to MOTIVATION, PURPOSE, LONGEVITY.
 - * The WHY must precede the WHAT and the HOW.
 - * WHY is the SPARK, PASSION, REASON
 - * If our HEART isn't in it, the STRATEGY won't matter. It will just become MAINTENANCE (wheel-spinning, going thru motions, exhausting + discouraging)
 - * WHAT and HOW, WHERE and WHEN become so much easier when we really understand WHY.
- *Why must there be a sequence in the questions we ask ourselves? Why does why come first? What happens if we don't get the why? In what different ways can we ask ourselves the why?*

"The church we see is ALIVE: Vibrant, welcoming, joyful and fun; our services are bright, positive and celebratory."

- *Does our church look like that? Is that appealing to you? If so, why?*
- *What to you are the hallmarks that a church is alive? Which churches have you been that are? Any that weren't? How did that feel?*

WHAT DOES ALIVE CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

- LIVELY ATMOSPHERE
- VIBRANT PRAISE
- PASSIONATE WORSHIP
- INSPIRING TEACHING
- BRIGHT & WELCOMING ENVIRONMENTS
- PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS
- SMILING PEOPLE
- ATMOSPHERE CHARGED WITH THE SPIRIT

→ *What do each of those look like and why are they so important? Which are most important to you? How are we doing on each one at theBarn? Have you been to any churches that excel in any of the areas?*

If JESUS is in it, it will be ALIVE (John 14:6, 6:35)

- * "FILL this place with JESUS, and filling it with PEOPLE will be the LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS."
- *Do you agree with this statement? What might it mean in reality?*
- * John 6:63, 4:13-14, 10:10, Psalm 16:11
- *In a spiritual sense, what does it mean to be alive? What kind of life did Jesus come to bring? Do you have it? How do you get it / keep it / spread it?*

WHY ALIVE, then?

Think of the Damage caused by DEADNESS

- * Death has a STENCH.
 - * Religion OPPRESSES, FRUSTRATES, KILLS = why Jesus chased it away!
 - * Alive is COMPELLING, ATTRACTIVE, FERTILE SOIL; Dead is STIFLING, UNATTRACTIVE, OFF-PUTTING.
 - * Alive OPENS people up; Deadness CLOSES people down.
- *What is dead? What does it look like? What does it do? What causes it? Why is it dangerous? What does it do to people's spiritual lives? What do it say to visitors or unbelievers?*
- *What are the telling contrasts between dead and alive? Why do people desperately need life? What do they need that falls under the overall umbrella of 'life?'*

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE A LIFE-GIVER?

1. Have an ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE.
 2. Develop a LIFESTYLE of PRAISE & WORSHIP.
 3. Be a SPARK, a participant, a 'first-responder.'
 4. Be a conduit of LOVE & BLESSING.
 5. Come READY to SERVE, GIVE, ENCOURAGE.
 6. Be CAPTURED by the VISION.
 7. Be FILLED with the SPIRIT.
 8. Be RENEWED with the WORD.
 9. MOVE intentionally TOWARDS whatever brings LIFE and AWAY from anything that SQUEEZES IT out of you.
- *Do you see those attributes present in Christians? Do you see them evident in yourself? Which would you like to grow in? How? What are you going to do?*

FOR US @theBarn

1. Make what we do UP-TEMPO, LIVELY, FUN.
 2. Press into PRAISE, JOY, FREEDOM.
 3. Be habitually POSITIVE, WELCOMING, ENCOURAGING.
 4. Invite God's SPIRIT & LIFE, His Presence and power, which are the 'IT factor.'
- *How can you contribute to, encourage, stimulate each of those at theBarn?*

WRAP-UP: A church that's ALIVE will ...

- * DRAW those who LONG FOR life.
 - * Be FRUITFUL, because LIFE produces LIFE.
 - * Be TRANSFORMING, because people will come EXPECTING and leave DIFFERENT.
- *If we truly were alive, what would it or could look like? What would be the effects on the atmosphere? On you? On visitors? On the unchurched?*