

The Anonymous Findings from Pastoral Interviews
Part 1 The Research Methods

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS

Questionnaires

The purpose of this study has been to develop effective strategies for reaching and retaining young adults in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District of the Assemblies of God (PDD) through the context of the local church. One of the first steps in accomplishing this has involved interviewing pastors of the district. This was done over a time span of approximately six months. Two sets of questions were used (see appendix A and B). One set was based on the modified Likert Scale system and the other was qualitative in nature. Some of these interviews were conducted by Joseph and Heidi Barrale over a cup of coffee, lunch or dinner. The majority of interviews were gathered by means of telephone conversations.

A Random Sampling

The researcher attempted to choose individuals for the sample (n=27) from the larger population (PDD) through the process of randomization (Leedy 1997 205). In conjunction with the thesis advisor it was determined that a sample size of 25 from the churches (n=350), would be an appropriate number. Twenty five would be within the recommended seven to ten percent, generally recommended in sampling.

The Process

In an effort to most accurately reflect the diversity of the district, interviews were conducted among pastors from various age groups. The youngest one interviewed was

twenty three years old. The oldest one interviewed was sixty eight years old. The rest were of various ages in between.

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In addition, care was taken to make sure pastors from different parts of the district were involved in the interviews. ...

In some cases pastors' wives were interviewed alongside their husbands. In other cases the female participants were not with their husbands. These steps were taken in an effort to reflect the overall population of ministries in the PDD. Represented in the sample were males, females, experienced pastors, young pastors, senior pastors, assistant pastors, those in close proximity to colleges and those who simply had young adults (non-students) in their area.

The Interviews

Both the Likert and qualitative questionnaires served as a means to provide concrete answers as to what we are, or are not, currently doing in our district to reach young adults. They were also designed to give insight about how many young adults are currently attending our churches. Another purpose was to provide insight into how pastors honestly viewed Chi Alpha (XA), the XA missionary, the local campus, young adult ministry, and the role of the district in helping them reach this age group. Ultimately, the purpose of the interview was to facilitate collaborative-action research. The pastors had the opportunity to speak honestly about the current involvement in young adult ministry and to give input into the upcoming changes to this area of district ministry. In others, the interviews helped uncover the felt, expressed, and anticipated needs of the pastors in regards to developing a more effective strategy and ownership of young adult ministry.

REFERENCE LIST

Leedy, Paul D. 1997. Practical Research. Columbus, OH: Merrill.

APPENDIX A

PASTOR INTERVIEW

This information will provide insight into the felt, expressed, and anticipated needs of the churches in our district.

1. How many young people between the ages of 18-30 (estimation) attend your church on a regular basis? (Whether Christian or Seeker)

2. How do you describe your church's current ministry effort to reach this age group?
 - a) Describe your greatest triumph in this area?

 - b) Describe your greatest challenge in this area?

3. Historically speaking, what has been your church's attitude towards the campus in your community?

4. What do you see as the necessary elements that would help your church to reach this age group?

5. How do you as pastor view the "XA missionary?"

6. What are some ways (in your opinion) that the district office could help you reach the 18-30 year olds in your area?

APPENDIX B

SURVEY FOR PASTOR

This information will provide insight into felt and expressed needs of the pastors in our district. Paradigms will be developed and introduced to the pastors who will in turn cast the vision for reaching young adults through the local church.

The following questions ask about the involvement and attitude of your local church in Chi Alpha ministry and among 18-30 year olds who are not part of a campus. Remember there is no right or wrong answers, just answers that are based on your perspective. Use the scale below to answer the questions. If you think the statement is very true circle 1. If the statement is not at all true, circle 7. If the answer is more or less true or more or less false then find a number in between that you find most accurately reflects your understanding of the situation.

1. I prefer to have Chi Alpha missionaries handle the ministry on the campus with little or no input from my local church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. I find it difficult to invest in the Chi Alpha missionary because the work does not appear to funnel back or benefit the local church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3. I would be interested in establishing a ministry to 18-30 years olds from my local church but am not sure how to get started.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

4. It would be helpful if the district made young adult ministry, seminars, training materials, and resource people, available to the local churches.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

5. I believe the district could help me train people in my church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. Because the numbers of young adults in my church are small in number, I think it would be helpful to have young adult events or trainings on a sectional or regional level.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

7. I would love to have high quality discipleship (moving beyond evangelism) material for young adults available to me through the district.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7