

Erin Village Alliance Church

Strategic Ministry Plan for 2012-2017



Our VISION

***Erin Village Alliance Church is a
reproducing and relevant church reaching
the Town of Erin and touching the world
with real faith for real life.***

Rooted in **WORSHIP**

TRUTH: Just as Healthy Plants Develop Roots...Healthy Christians also Develop Roots

One of the lessons in the Parable of the Sower is that just because a seed is sown doesn't guarantee that it will become rooted, grow and eventually multiply. In Matthew 13:20 Jesus explains that...

*"The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But **since he has no root**, he lasts only a short time." (emphasis added)*

One of the points Jesus makes in this parable is that **Christ followers are designed to be rooted!**

LIFE APPLICATION: One of the Best Ways to Grow Roots is Through Corporate Worship

One of the best ways a follower of Christ can be rooted spiritually is through corporate worship....that is joining a church family and making corporate worship a high priority in their life. Why? Just as roots provide vitality and stability to seedlings and young plants, corporate worship provide vitality and stability to us as followers of Jesus Christ.

Just as Roots Provide VITALITY...Corporate Worship Provides VITALITY

Gathering for worship is the Xylem and Phloem for us spiritually. As we worship in song, as we pray together, as we sit under the teaching of God's Word, as we reconnect with each other before and after the service we are replenished and refueled spiritually for the week ahead...so that we can grow in our relationship with Christ.

Just as Roots Provide STABILITY...Corporate Worship Provides STABILITY

Gathering for worship also knits us together with other Christ followers. Our root structures grow into one another and we are strengthened and stabilized so that when the storms of life blow in we aren't alone but we're interconnected with other Christ-followers and because of this we can withstand so much more through our corporate rootedness.

Key Result Area for "ROOTED IN WORSHIP" for 2012 -2017

To create a culture of corporate worship so compelling that our congregation would make it a high priority in their lives.

Action Plan

1. Preach **sermon series** on being Deeply Rooted in Worship
2. Create and implement a **Worship Leaders Development** Program (via Life-Group (s)) to demonstrate good stewardship of the great human resources we have in our youth/young adults
3. Recreate and implement a **Worship Host Team** to facilitate the creative and concise presentation of announcements and the opening of our corporate time of worship in prayer.

4. Create and implement a **strategy to welcome and introduce our non-EVAC youth** and their families to corporate worship on Sunday mornings. (Note: This ministry plan calls for the hiring of an Associate Pastor for Student Ministries in 2012 to resource this action item.)
5. Tim to sharpen preaching skills via the completion of homiletics course.
6. To further research the viability utilizing our land at #1 Erin Park Drive. To establish a permanent worship facility in Erin via the Stewardship of the Land Team.

Growing in **COMMUNITY**

TRUTH: Just as Healthy Plants Grow and Mature...Healthy Christ-Followers Grow and Mature

In the Parable of the Soils...the seed that fell among thorns established roots...but when it began to grow it was choked out by thorns and as a result never matured to the point of being able to multiply. In Matthew 13:22 Jesus explains that...

"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful."

A second point that Jesus makes in this parable is that Christ followers are not only designed to be rooted, but **they are designed to grow and mature.**

LIFE APPLICATION: One of the Best Ways to Grow Spiritually is Through a Small-Group

For any plant to grow, it needs to be in environment where it can grow strong and healthy and eventually reproduce without being strangled by the thorns and weeds that threaten to take over. One of the richest environments a Christ-follower can grow in is in the context of a Small-Group. Because in a Small-Group (unlike in corporate worship) you have opportunity to study God's Word for yourself, you have the opportunity to pray for one another), and you have the opportunity to apply God's word to your life and have others hold you accountable for. In addition to this you can serve together, care for one another and celebrate life together. All of this is crucial to growing in our journeys of faith.

It is no different with our students. This Small-Group strategy also applies to our youth ministry. This past year Josh experimented with introducing a small-group experience once a month one a few Friday nights and it presented our students and our leaders with some great opportunities to go deeper on Friday nights both in their relationship with Christ but also in their relationships with each other.

Key Result Area for "GROWING THROUGH COMMUNITY" for 2012 -2017

To create a culture of community so compelling that our congregation would make Life Groups a priority in their lives

Action Plan

1. Recruit a Life Groups Team Leader for EVAC Adults
2. Initiate name change from “House Churches” to “Life Groups” to emphasize connectedness to EVAC Vision “real faith for real life.”
3. Recruit majority of EVAC ministry leaders to participate in Life Groups
4. Launch “New to EVAC” Life Group (4 week) for guests/newcomers to learn more about EVAC’s Vision, Mission, Beliefs, denominational background, and membership process.
5. To explore the value and viability of transitioning current EVAC Life Groups to Sermon-Based Small-Groups.
6. Create and Implement a Life-Group leader’s Training Strategy to facilitate the recruitment/training of our leaders
7. Incorporate “Life Group” strategy into the context of our student ministries programming. (Note: This ministry plan calls for the hiring of an Associate Pastor for Student Ministries in 2012 to resource this action item.)

Reproducing through **MINISTRY and MISSION**

Just as Healthy Plants Reproduce Physically...Healthy Christ Followers Reproduce Spiritually

In the Parable of the Soils some seed fell on good soil where it became rooted, grew into maturity and then multiplied exponentially. In Matthew 13:8 Jesus explains...

“Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”

The third point that Jesus makes in this parable is that Christ followers are not only designed to be rooted, they’re not only designed to grow and mature, but **they’re also designed to reproduce exponentially!**

One of the Best Ways To Reproduce Spiritually is Through Ministry and Mission

One of the things we learn from the Scriptures is that plants reproduce through self-sacrifice. In **John 12:24** compares discipleship to a kernel of wheat that falls to ground and then dies in order to reproduce itself into many seeds. Jesus’ point is that in order to reproduce spiritually you and I must be prepared to serve him sacrificially.

How does Jesus call us to serve Him?

1. By serving those who are saved (i.e. the church) through ministry by using your spiritual gifts
2. By serving the lost through mission (i.e. intentionally going and making disciples)

Key Result Area for “REPRODUCING THROUGH MINISTRY” for 2012 -2017

To create a culture of ministry so compelling that our people would make it a priority to discover their spiritual gifts and then use them to build up the body within EVAC. (Metric: 80% of our people are engaged in their God-given mission in life)

Action Plan

1. Preach Series on Spiritual Gifts
2. Launch “Spiritual Gifts” Life Group (4-6 week) for EVAC family to discover their spiritual passion, gifts and shape for ministry.
3. Recruit a Ministry Placement Team Leader to work directly with individuals in placing them in ministry.
4. Create an electronic and print catalogue of ministry positions within the church with job descriptions so that those who have discovered their spiritual gifts but are not yet living out their mission can get plugged into ministry.
5. Create a ministry placement process to guide and direct those who have discovered their gifts into a meaningful place of ministry.

Key Result Area for “REPRODUCING THROUGH MISSION” for 2012 -2017

To create a culture of mission so compelling that our people would make it a priority to be active in engaging in missional (discipling) relationships in whatever context God calls them to. (Metric: 80% of our people are actively engaged in missional relationships)

Action Plan

Missional Relationships within our Families

1. To teach a mini-series on developing missional relationships within our families (discipling our children and teenagers)
2. To offer a Life-Group Bible study option on developing missional relationships with your children and teenagers

Missional Relationships within our Communities

1. To teach a mini-series on developing missional relationships with those in our Communities
2. To offer a Life-Group Bible study option (Contagious Christian, Just a Walk Across the Room) on developing missional relationships with those in our communities
3. To develop a long-term youth ministry strategy focused on developing missional relationships with our youth. (Note: This ministry plan calls for the hiring of an Associate Pastor for Student Ministries in 2012 to resource this action item.)
4. To further research the viability of using our property at #1 Erin Park Drive to create missional relationships with our community through the Stewardship of the Land Team.

Missional Relationships with Lost People in Canada and Around the World

1. To build on our growing relationships with the people of God’s River, MB as God opens the door for future ministry.
2. To strategically partner together with the international workers in our clusters in making disciples of all nations by sending short-term missions team from EVAC on a regular basis to support those workers in touching the world with real faith for real life.