



PRAYER CHAPEL  
OPEN AT ALL TIMES

## Life People Can See

by Jack Noble, Church Health Strategist, Central-West Region

Churches have life cycles just like living organisms. There are times of excitement, growth, and multiplication and times of plateaued enthusiasm and waning results. Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox, which was planted in 1834, recently ascended out of a plateau into fresh vision and increased outward expressions of Christ's love in the community. The church has a renewed spirit, for which God deserves

the credit.

Just a little over two years ago, Liberty called Rusty Small as its pastor. Calling the right pastor was a great step, but Pastor Rusty states, "Our focus on every-member ministry was crucial for revitalization. Every member must understand how truly vital he/she is to the body of Christ." When the church members began to acknowledge that they were the church, things began to change. If the Word was not shared or the Lord was not honored, they came to understand it as their responsibility. The church was diligent to preserve unity while making changes. They wanted to keep



every church member on board as the church reached out to the community.

The church sponsored several community events, like Family Fest and Super Snow Day, which drew thousands. Liberty's leadership felt it necessary to get the community's attention, and quality, free community events were an initial step toward that goal. The Appomattox community began to see that

something was happening at Liberty Baptist—something they wanted to be a part of. In addition to developing an atmosphere of excellent events, the church developed a robust deacon ministry and assessed every ministry in the church to discover how each could do a better job.

To explain the main factor in Liberty's revitalization, Pastor Rusty shares, "I brought a desire to teach and live out a proper vision of church life, but the biggest thing I did was try to get out of the way and make the vision of the church greater than the pastor's." Most importantly, "God is the one who gives the people a mind to work and carry out the mission of the church."

Liberty's revitalization was ignited by leadership with a desire for a healthy church and members who believed in the vision. Is your church in need of revitalization?

### RESOURCE

#### ■ Websites:

[www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)  
[www.libertybconline.org](http://www.libertybconline.org)

#### ■ PowerPoint:

To download a Revitalization PowerPoint, type the below URL into your address bar, making sure no spaces exist between characters or words.

<http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/1680/RevitalizingYourChurchPanelDiscussionRustySmallLibertyBaptistChurchAppomattox.pps#274,17>,  
REVITALIZING YOUR CHURCH

