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PART 2
of 6

Editor's Note:

At the 2009 Annual Homecoming, the SBCV unanimously approved the Vision 20/20 Report. It outlines a course of action for the next 10 years leading to the year 2020. This series of articles unpacks one by one the six major proposals of the report. For the entire report, refer to www.sbcv.org/aboutus/vision2020.

The SBCV Is a Maturing Missional Network

by Jeff Ginn, Executive Director

THE GOAL

The second goal of the Vision 20/20 Report is that the SBCV function as a maturing missional network in which at least 500 congregations progress to the next level of congregational health.

THE CHALLENGE

Churches may be plotted along a spectrum of congregational health. This ranges from churches that are near dissolution to those that are impacting the world in transformational ways. The SBCV will partner with interested local congregations to facilitate an evaluation, prescription, and implementation of a course of action that will, by God's grace, enable them to reach the next level on the spectrum of congregational health.

THE NEXT STEPS

What would be the next steps in seeing your church go to the next level in congregational health? Here are some suggestions:

Take honest stock of where you are. It is usually no fun to get a thorough physical exam but, in the long run, it can be a life-saving measure. Similarly, taking an honest look at the health of your congregation is a first step toward addressing vital needs.

Chart a course of action. Once you have diagnosed your current spiritual condition, you will be in a better position to chart a course of action that will improve your fellowship's health. The SBCV has a gifted team of church health strategists who stand ready to help you discern the next steps to take.

Implementation. Prescriptions do little good for those who fail to implement them. James' admonition is helpful here: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (1:22, NIV).

Reproduce. The end of church health is reproduction. Healthy disciples will reproduce themselves. Ditto for healthy churches.

Merv Griffin was a well-known talk show host. One time, a bodybuilder appeared on his show. The guest flexed his muscles and the crowd went wild. Griffin asked, "What do you do with all those muscles?" The body builder could think of no response; his only answer was to flex his muscles again. Muscles are not primarily for show; God gave them to us for productive purposes. Church health is like that. The health and vibrancy of our churches are not for display; they enable us to bear fruit that brings our God glory!