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INTERNATIONAL ORALITY NETWORK

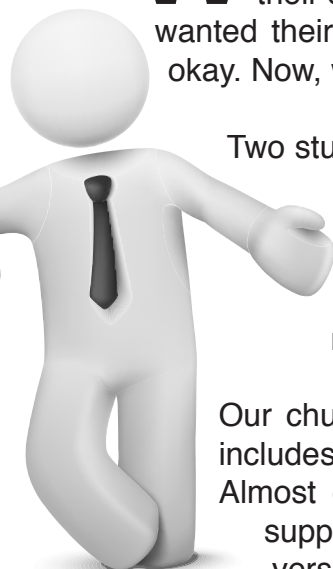
Newsletter

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“Influencing Pastors to Rethink Orality”

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While I was attending a Purpose Driven Church workshop in 2005, I heard Rick Warren tell attendees to place greeters at their church doors that represented the kind of person that they wanted their church to attract. If that’s 90 year-old men, then that’s okay. Now, who do you think that literacy-oriented churches attract?

Two studies released in 2011, one by the University of Nebraska and the other by the American Sociological Association, showed that whites in America with high school educations declined in their frequency of church attendance, while those with college degrees were the most frequent attenders today.

Our churches have attracted those who are like them and this includes when they prioritize a literate worldview preference. Almost everything that most pastors typically are taught to do supports a literate worldview. Projected scripture, reading verses from all over the Bible, using fill-in-the-blank handouts, summarizing biblical narratives, conducting word studies, and

exegeting texts contribute to a non-reproducible environment by church members, whether they can read or not. There is a disconnect from the general population by literate worldview pastors who rarely attract people other than those who are like themselves.

A northwestern U.S. pastor told me that he asked a simple question of his members, “Can you make disciples?” When he found that they could evangelize, but not make disciples, he turned to Bible Storying because it was so highly reproducible. Encourage your pastor to rethink orality and start making disciples!

*Mark Snowden
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