



New Church Specialties ReFocusing

Questions and Answers about Refocusing

1. **What is Refocusing?** In short, it is an emphasis on recapturing within our own hearts, the heart that Jesus has for his church.
2. **Why consider doing this?** To make every attempt to keep in step with God's will for his church. We need to take the same approach a missionary would take in trying to reach a new culture for Christ. This will involve developing an understanding of the uniqueness of the community we are positioned to reach and making every effort to extend to them the timeless message of Christ.
3. **What is going to change?** Initially, the work of the Refocusing Team will be seeking to prayerfully understand how to reach the community that surrounds us. Our message of Christ will not change and yet, the means we use to communicate that message may change as we walk through this process. We do not want our methods to become a roadblock to our message.
4. **Who will decide what changes?** These kinds of decisions will not be left to any one individual. The Refocusing Team will work hand in hand with the Church Board and pastors to determine the best way to process change.
5. **Is Refocusing Biblical?** That is a good and appropriate question. You won't necessarily find the word "refocusing" in the Bible, however much of the New Testament was written to churches with the purpose of helping them to refocus. Think about it. Much of what the Apostle Paul was inspired to write was meant to help Christians understand what it meant to keep in step with God's Spirit and to live as fully devoted followers of Christ.
6. **Why can't we just do what we have been doing and trust God to change the people around us?** Perhaps one answer to this question can be seen in the heart of the gospel message; God came to lost people in his son Jesus Christ. In Jesus, God gives us all a clear example of the need to reach out to people in ways they can readily understand. The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:22, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." Paul wasn't content to sit and hope that people around him would change. He knew that wouldn't work and it wasn't the pattern set forth in the story of Jesus. He was willing to change, "I have become all things", and used different methods, "so that by all possible means", in order to reach as many people as possible with the gospel message. His ministry is a great example for us as we refocus our ministries here at Bethel.

7. **Shouldn't we just pray more and trust God to bring revival?** We should pray and every successful refocused church points to the emphasis on Spiritual renewal as key to successfully moving forward. In the Bible it is clear that faithful activity, or hard work, must accompany our prayers. If we take the missionaries as models for ministry today in America, then it is clear that along with prayer there is much work to be done. There are languages to be learned, customs and cultures to be understood, adaptation of ministries, establishing meaningful connections in those ministries and discovering the needs of the community they are attempting to reach with the gospel.
8. **I am not part of the ReFocus team, do I have a say in the decision making or what can I do to be a part of this?** Yes! Step one is to pray that God's vision will be shown to the members of the Refocusing Team. Along with your prayers, please feel free to share your observations and concerns with your church board and Refocusing Team members. As we all pray and work together God will help us to be the church he wants us to be.
9. **What is New Church Specialties and can we trust them to lead us in the Refocusing process?** New Church Specialties is a ministry designed to assist in planting new churches, restarting churches, and refocusing churches. For the past 10 years New Church Specialties has been working with over 2,000 churches and pastors from over 25 other Christian organizations and denominations. NCS is strongly endorsed by our denominational and church leaders.
10. **When will this process be complete?** Refocusing is an ongoing process for the church. It is imperative that we not get so set on a particular ministry style or method that we fail to adapt to an ever changing culture. One cultural observer noted that in America we have seen more change in the last 20 years than in the previous 2000 combined. Honest observations also reveal that the church in America is not getting the job done. Our nation is becoming increasingly untouched with the gospel message. Some are saying we live in a Post-Christian nation. We simply cannot sit back and hope people get the message. We must prayerfully reach out in every possible way to encompass lost people for Jesus.