

# **A Framework For Urban Church Mission**

## **Diagnosing and Moving Your Church Forward**

A Framework For Urban Church Mission is a comprehensive spiritual and diagnostic tool which will help both pastors and the laity to understand the past, present and future direction of their church.

This booklet contains easy-to-follow instructions and surveys which will enable your church to develop its own unique mission statement.

The general direction of the booklet was taken from Dr. Jim Zackrison's Does Your Church Need a Doctor? and Pastor Jim Park's Master's Thesis work on the Urban Church along with help from the Masterplanning Committee of the Southern California Conference.

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# How to Fill Out This Workbook—I

## The Instructional Side

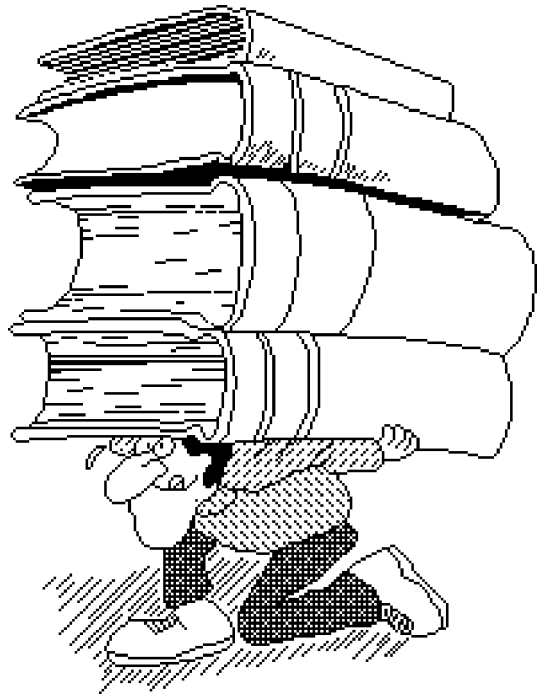
### The Information

This workbook is designed to help your church answer fourteen important diagnostic questions. In order to answer each question, you will need to follow these two steps:

- Step 1** First, read the instructional side of the page which provides background information. This page basically gives a short introduction to the topic so you can understand why the question is being asked.
- Step 2** After reading about the subject, then proceed to the right-hand side which will help you collect diagnostic information.

“Do your best  
to present yourself to God  
as one approved,  
a workman  
who does not need  
to be ashamed  
and who correctly handles  
the word of truth.”

2Timothy 2:15



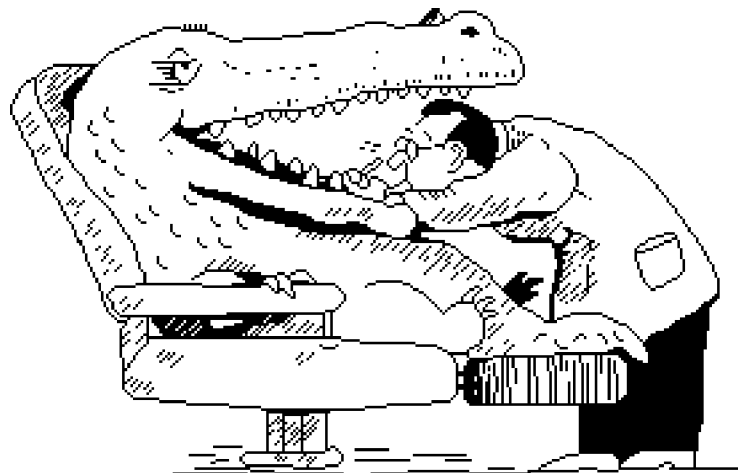
## How to Fill Out This Workbook—II

### The Diagnostic Side

#### The Diagnosis

After studying and understanding the background for the diagnostic question, you are ready to fill-out the questions and gather information. There are a number of very important facts you need to keep in mind when you survey your church:

- First of all, there are no right or wrong answers. This is a diagnostic tool, not an evaluation form. Just as a doctor's diagnosis is only as good as the information he obtains from the patient, so a church can only be rightly diagnosed if the members give an honest and complete answer. Churches like people are not perfect and need grace and the right kind of help in order to grow.
- Some pages need to be duplicated for the members. Some questions need to be duplicated and given to all the members. Others can be filled out either by individuals or a small committee. Be sure the proper participation is obtained.



“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Ephesians 4:16

## 1. Jesus is Lord of My Heart

**Overview** The essence of the Christian faith and the earliest New Testament confession embodied the declaration that “Jesus is Lord.” Only by the surrendering of the heart can Jesus indeed be Lord of our lives. Jesus Himself showed the importance of this essential spiritual dynamic when He prayed, “not my will be Thy will be done.” The first and most essential step in the revitalization of both the individual and corporate Christian life is surrendering all to the will of the Lord.

**The Biblical Basis** Romans 10:9 If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Ellen White Comments** 7T 199-200 God cannot connect with those who live to please themselves, to make themselves first. Those who do this will in the end be last of all. The sin that is most nearly hopeless and incurable is pride of opinion, self-conceit. This stands in the way of all growth.

Steps to Christ, 43 The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.

The Bible declares “Jesus is Lord.” Jesus was made Lord because He was willing to obey the Father and die on the cross. “Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name” that “every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9, 11).

In light of Christ’s willingness to lay Himself on the altar of sacrifice, the Bible admonishes us to “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). Jesus prayed in Gethemane: “Not my will but Thy will be done” (Matthew 26:39). Are we willing to allow Jesus to be the Lord of our major and minor decisions within His church?

**An individual or church’s capacity  
to truly grow is in direct  
proportion to their willingness  
to surrender themselves  
to the gracious rule  
of the Lord Jesus Christ.**



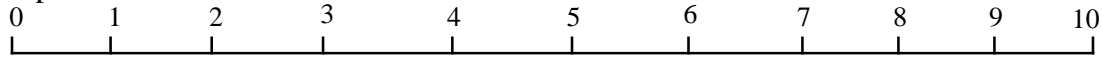
**“Not my will but Thy will be done.”**

# 1. Jesus is Lord of My Heart

Directions for filling-out the questions below:

Have all the members fill-out this survey about the quality of the relationships demonstrated in the congregation.

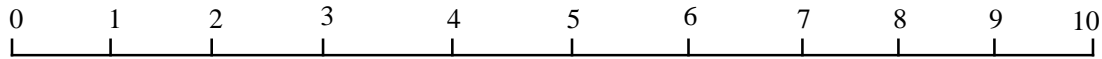
1. Dependence



God helps those who help themselves.

God helps those who surrender.

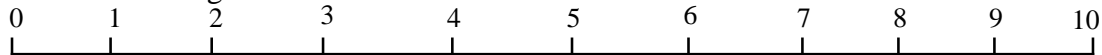
2. The Will



You need a strong will to obey.

You need a surrendered will to obey.

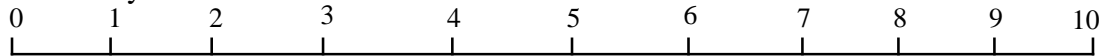
3. Faith and Feeling



Strong faith produces good feelings.

Feelings are not a sign of faith.

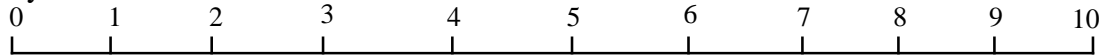
4. I Die Daily



I fight sin daily.

I surrender self daily.

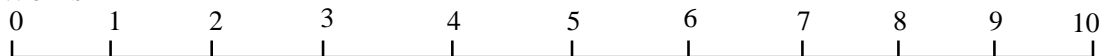
5. My Effort



I must do my best to obey.

I must do my best to stay surrendered.

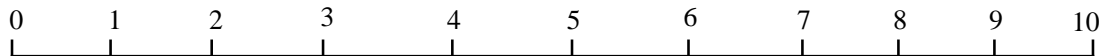
6. Works



Good works are the result of effort.

Good works are the result of faith.

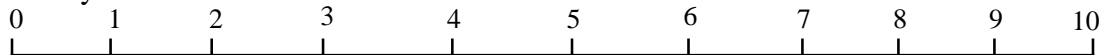
8. Control



I am in control of my life.

Jesus is in control of my life.

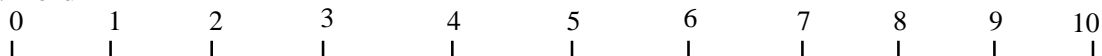
9. Victory



Victory is giving up sins.

Victory is surrendering self.

10. Lord



I am lord.

Jesus is Lord.