

feature article

May 26, 2009 | Issue #96



**Family Affair**  
Families Serving Together in Externally Focused Churches  
By Krista Petty

When Pastor Fred Knoll planned a family mission trip to an orphanage, he expected a decent turnout from his **White River Christian Church** (Noblesville, IN).

What he got was an overwhelming response leading to the development of several trips a year and a growing interest in families to serve orphans and children back home.

The first trip White River took included the Knoll family with four children all under the age of 11. "I was on top of a building ripping off shingles with my two boys while my wife was cleaning horse stalls and doing landscaping with our daughters," Fred says. "Then we all came together every afternoon to play games and cook out with the kids from the home."

The impact on his family has been easy for Fred to see. "We see our own children getting a deeper understanding of the servant lifestyle," Fred adds "I'll never forget our eight-year-old in tears praying that God would please find these children. . .

[MORE ▶](#)

in brief



**Financial Expert Hosts "Town Hall for Hope"**

More than one million people recently participated in the largest syndicated webcast to date, when nationally syndicated talk show host Dave Ramsey broadcast the "Town Hall for Hope" live from LifeChurch.tv in Oklahoma City.

[MORE ▶](#)

leadership network news



Leadership Network's  
**InnovationLab**

**Multi-site Church JumpStart Lab**  
Is your church looking for the chance to explore new ideas and discover a new path?

[MORE ▶](#)

leadership network blogs



Digital @ Leadership Network



[Web-based Ministry](#)



Learnings @ Leadership Network



[Innovation Exchange Launches](#)



[Selecting Locations for Additional Campuses](#)



Books @ Leadership Network



[Servolution](#)

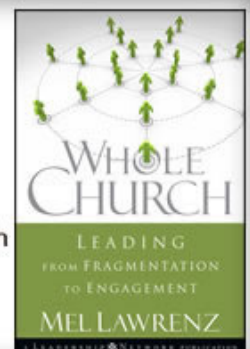


[The War of Art](#)

featured resource



**Whole Church**  
By Mel Lawrenz





### Western States Growing Fastest

U.S. Census Bureau statistics indicate that Utah and Texas grew the most during the most recently mapped year, July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008. The only two states that declined in population were Rhode Island and Michigan.

In general, Northeastern states are not growing as fast as other parts of the country, but they have been on the increase since 2005.

[MORE ▶](#)



### Churches Decrease Radio, Expand Internet

Many churches are cutting back on their radio broadcasting time to tap into endless opportunities the Internet offers.

Churches seeking to expand their reach are taking advantage of what they already have an abundance of--content.

[MORE ▶](#)

[▶ Buy it from Amazon.com](#)

[▶ Buy it from Barnes&Noble](#)

[▶ Watch book overview video](#)

### advance archives



You can peruse nearly 100 past issues of Leadership Network *Advance* and get valuable information on a variety of ministry topics in our Archives. Select [VIEW FULL ARCHIVES LIST](#) to see what's there.

Here are a few topics of interest we covered recently:

[▶ Whole Church](#)

[▶ Second Chair: Insights About Executive Pastors](#)

[▶ The Third Culture](#)

[VIEW FULL ARCHIVES LIST ▶](#)

© COPYRIGHT 2009 - LEADERSHIP NETWORK - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

[YOUR FEEDBACK](#) | [PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION](#)

LEADERSHIP NETWORK **ADVANCE** CONNECT. INNOVATE. MULTIPLY.

[LEADERSHIP NETWORK HOME](#) | [LEADERSHIP COMMUNITIES](#) | [RESOURCES](#) | [SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE](#) | [FORWARD TO A FRIEND](#)

### feature article

When Pastor Fred Knoll planned a family mission trip to an orphanage, he expected a decent turnout from his [White River Christian Church](#) (Noblesville, IN).

What he got was an overwhelming response leading to the development of several trips a year and a growing interest in families to serve orphans and children back home.

The first trip White River took included the Knoll family with four children all under the age of 11. "I was on top of a building ripping off shingles with my two boys while my wife was cleaning horse stalls and doing landscaping with our daughters," Fred says. "Then we all came together every



## Family Affair

### Families Serving Together in Externally Focused Churches

By Krista Petty

afternoon to play games and cook out with the kids from the home."

The impact on his family has been easy for Fred to see. "We see our own children getting a deeper

understanding of the servant lifestyle," Fred adds "I'll never forget our eight-year-old in tears praying that God would please find these children a home."

White River has connected serving to building strong family relationships. According to a recent Baylor School of Social Work study, that is exactly what families desire from their church.

Dean Diana Garland asked 3,393 church attenders what they would like to see their church help them do in regards to family life. Respondents marked up to six items in a list of 47 to indicate ways in which their church can help families. Overall, respondents most commonly reported that they would like to see their church help in the areas of:

- (1) Serving others outside our family (26.8%);
- (2) Family prayer and devotional time (21.8%);
- (3) Communication skills (20.6%);
- (4) Developing healthy habits - eating, exercise, rest and recreation (19.9%);
- (5) Developing a strong marriage (19.6%); and
- (6) Talking about our faith together (18.5%)

"We didn't expect that," Diana says. "Even families who are struggling themselves want to serve others. These families are telling us that the focus of church needs to be centered on ways families can minister to the world."

Family service projects also rank high on Fred's community involvement and discipleship strategy. "I've seen parents and children grow deeper in their relationship with Christ just by being obedient in service," he says. "They are exposed to needs and come back with broken hearts. As we say a lot at White River, they are 'wrecked on the inside' for Jesus."



[▶ Read the Full Paper Here](#)

## Family Affair

### Families Serving Together in Externally Focused Churches

By Krista Petty

[Post a Comment](#) | [View Comments](#)

Rate this Article: 

Average Rating:  5

[◀ BACK](#)

leadership network news

**Leadership Network Innovation Labs**

Is your church looking for the chance to explore new ideas and discover a new path? Do you sometimes feel caught between ideas and action? You're not alone.

That's why Leadership Network has developed The Innovation Lab, a unique environment designed to help you overcome the common obstacles to innovative thinking and problem solving in developing a ministry area:

- Working on the wrong problem
- Judging ideas too quickly
- A climate that discourages creativity
- Getting stuck in the weeds (obstacles)
- Faulty or delayed implementation

Each year-long Innovation Lab experience will tackle one of several topics in a group setting, utilizing both in-person and virtual gatherings of church teams.

**Multi-site Church JumpStart Innovation Lab**

The multi-site church conversation continues to grow and more churches are entering the movement. This reality has led Leadership Network to develop the JumpStart Lab designed to help churches develop strategy and accelerate the launch of a multi-site ministry.

Dates:

October 20-21, 2009

April 20, 2010

October 19, 2010

**Application deadline is August 1, 2009**

For more information or to obtain an application, contact:

Greg Ligon  
Leadership Network  
2626 Cole Avenue, Suite 900  
Dallas TX 75204  
972-754-9724

◀ **BACK**



in brief

**Financial Expert Hosts "Town Hall for Hope"**

More than one million people recently participated in the largest syndicated webcast to date, when nationally syndicated talk show host Dave Ramsey broadcast the "Town Hall for Hope" live from LifeChurch.tv in Oklahoma City.

The discussion of the economy and the importance of hope was heard on the radio, seen on cable's Fox



Business Network, and webcast to more than 6,000 locations nationwide.

During the webcast, Dave commented: "Activity is going to be your answer. You've got to get up, take action and get moving! Failure is not bad. Failure has got to be an option, because if you think it's chasing you, you'll run towards excellence!"

[▶ Watch the Event](#)

### Western States Growing Fastest

U.S. Census Bureau statistics indicate that Utah and Texas grew the most during the most recently mapped year, July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008. The only two states that declined in population were Rhode Island and Michigan.

In general, Northeastern states are not growing as fast as other parts of the country, but they have been on the increase since 2005.



The South added the most people during the period, 1.4 million. However Western states, with a 1.4% increase, saw the fastest growth rate.

One state that has reversed its course of growth is Florida. A few years ago more than 250,000 people per year were moving to that state. But for 2007-2008, the state's 0.7% increase was below the nation's 0.9% overall increase.

According to the estimates, the United States had a net gain of just over 2.7 million people from July 2007 to July 2008.

[▶ Related Link](#)

### Churches Decrease Radio, Expand Internet

Many churches are cutting back on their radio broadcasting time to tap into endless opportunities the Internet offers.



Churches seeking to expand their reach are taking advantage of what they already have an abundance of--content. Sermons and other teachings and presentations can be recorded and posted to a church's website. Web tools and sites are making it easier for ministries to manage their materials at a fraction of what it would cost for a radio broadcast. The Internet allows even small ministries to reach international audiences.

According to a Pew Internet & American Life Project survey, 19% of all Internet users say they have downloaded a podcast so they can listen to it or view it later. This is up from 12% in August 2006, while 17% said they downloaded a podcast in a typical day.

Many churches expect those numbers only to increase as more people use broadband Internet, download more mp3s and buy mobile devices with increased online capabilities.

Some ministries that are already posting audio online are planning to expand to stay on par with technology trends. Nearly 6.9 million iPhones were sold during the last financial quarter, compared to 1.1 million just a year ago, which has more ministries targeting mobile technology.

[▶ Related Link](#)

[◀ BACK](#)