

Connections Strategies Coaching Network

February – June 2010

Facilitated by Mark Waltz

Call it connections, discipleship, involvement, assimilation. The question is how to help your guests and returning attendees find a genuine sense of belonging, involvement and growth at your church? Among the many, diverse people that return or go to church for the first time, one thing is true about most of them: they arrive in our churches with a consumer mind-set, asking, “What’s in it for me?” That’s why first impressions matter: we must learn to meet them right where they are. Of course the Lord of the Church doesn’t want them to stay where they are. How do we help them move from being hopeful consumers to other-focused, step-taking, involved participants connected to God and others around them? Helping people experience the reality of belonging – to God and to others – in a way that causes them to live *for* God and others is kingdom of God-sized stuff. And God’s plan A is still people. We really do need each other. This network may provide the partnership you need.

Who it’s for:

- Pastors, including senior pastors, who are responsible for connections, assimilation, discipleship, or other such “flavors” of connecting adults to God and each other.
- Strategic ministry leaders and decision-makers who influence the environments that currently exist or could exist to facilitate the relational connection and spiritual growth of adults, including but not limited to weekend guest services, groups, classes, events, and volunteer serving teams.
- Pastors, directors, and other key leaders responsible for volunteers who create such environments.
- Leaders in a season or crossroads who need customized, focused, up close and personal attention.
- Influencers who are highly committed to strategic, interactive, out-of-the-box opportunities to roll-up their sleeves and let down their guard with peers they can trust.
- Not everyone. It’s limited to 6-12 participants.

What it is:

- Four coaching sessions at Granger Community Church led by Mark Waltz, pastor of connections
- Targeted focus discussions at each session:
 - **Experiences:** Get clear about what you want people to experience in the respective venues in your church. How to define and create experiences that foster connectivity and belonging.
 - **Best practices.** How to both capture and create standard, consistent behaviors that reflect your values and engage people. How to avoid wow-busters in first impressions and deal-breakers in lasting impressions.
 - **Strategy.** Building systems and structure to lead people and manage processes from guests to members, from spectators to volunteers. Develop culture that breathes mission and honors agreed upon values.
 - **Leading Change.** Celebrating past and current successes while casting vision for a new future. Leading change and relationship management – with your boss, peers and staff.
 - **Volunteers.** Building, sustaining and leading volunteer teams for effective ministry outcomes while fostering community and growth within the team members.
 - **Your Issue.** Time will be carved to drill down on your top issue—working together with the group for possible solutions.

- Controlled, filtered setting to work together with a small group of leaders who will share what they've learned, encourage you with objectivity and energize you for your next phase.
- Direct access to Mark Waltz between meetings (your emails get priority treatment and jump to the top).
- VIP guest treatment during on-site and virtual visits.
- Practical community with other participants. We'll share the coaching network participant list in advance so you can share rides and stuff like that. And, we'll house you all at the same fine hotel for the on-site visits for late night or early morning connections.
- A free copy of Mark's books: *First Impressions: Creating Wow Experiences in Your Church* and *Lasting Impressions: From Visiting to Belonging*.
- Access to an exclusive online space for connecting between meetings.
- Surprise guest experts joining relevant topic discussions.
- Additional books, curriculum and electronic files of all coaching notes and supporting documents.

What's next:

Are you able to invest the time, energy and money for the journey? Here are the details.

- **CALENDAR:** Four dates, four coaching sessions (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with working lunch)
 - Monday, February 22
 - Thursday, March 25
 - Tuesday, May 4
 - Wednesday, June 2
- **COST:** \$2,200 per participant for the entire network experience. Your registration fee includes all materials, books, on-site meals *and* lodging (one night each on-site). All you have to do is get here. And you should know, your investment would be investing in others. A large percentage of the revenue from this Coaching Network will be used to subsidize the training of pastors and leaders around the world through WiredChurches.com.
- **DEADLINES:**
 - Complete [application](#) (soon if you're serious). Participants will be considered first-come-first-served based on date the application is received. All applications must be in by January 28, and all accepted participants will be notified no later than February 1.
 - Complete fees payable within 21 days after acceptance notification.

Quick facts about Granger

- Started in 1986 by Mark and Sheila Beeson.
- A local church with a vision of reaching every unchurched person in the population-base of 300,000 people.
- Met in a movie theater for ten years.
- Launched WiredChurches.com in 2001 to provide practical and accessible training and resources from our local ministry to pastors and church leaders around the world.
- With the launch of a campus in Elkhart, Indiana—Granger is now a multi-site ministry.
- Owns and operates a community center in inner city South Bend with food pantry, mentoring, and education programs.
- Granger is 20 minutes from the South Bend airport (SBN), 90 minutes from Chicago Midway (MDW) and 2 hours from Chicago O'Hare (ORD).
- Learn more about Granger at GCCwired.com or watch videos on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) or [Vimeo](https://www.vimeo.com).

Quick facts about Mark Waltz

- Prior to Granger: eight years in local church staff ministry, including students, small groups, and volunteer involvement; ten years of marketplace experience, including retail management and employment development and training.
- Twelve years at Granger, serving as volunteer for first two years.
- In full-time ministry at Granger since 2000 as Pastor of Connections. Currently responsible for six staff, ten key volunteers and the oversight of over 700 guest services volunteers.
- Consultant, speaker and workshop presenter to thousands of pastors and church leaders across the country on the subject of connections.
- Author of the blog, BecausePeopleMatter.com with nearly 1,300 subscribers and over 52,000 unique visitors in the past year.
- Written articles for or been consulted by various blogs and magazines including *Outreach Magazine*, *REV Magazine*, *Church Solutions Magazine*, *Rick Warren's Ministry Toolbox*, and more.
- Member of Granger's senior management team, clarifying vision and strategy for the growth and health of the church.
- Married 28 years to high school sweetheart, Laura Waltz. They are the proud and praying parents for one beautiful sixteen year-old daughter, Olivia.