

## Healthy Churches

by Carl McMurray

Among church growth students over the last three decades there has been a consensus that church growth parallels church health. Just like any physical body, when there is good health and the absence of disease and hindrances, growth naturally follows. A recent article I noticed followed up on this idea, *Seven Secrets of Healthy Churches*, by Thom S. Rainer. Although I don't believe these are "secrets," putting my own spin on his main ideas, I do believe he makes valid points when he says that healthy churches...

- ◆ *...possess leadership and membership that have a high view of Scripture.* If we are not always holding up the Word, we will soon lose our focus on it in the distractions of this world. [2 Tim 2:15](#)
- ◆ *...seek to be relevant.* We cannot help others with the gospel of salvation if we neither speak their language nor understand their needs. The date is NOT 1965 and the culture is not the same as it once was. [1 Cor 9:19-22; 10:33](#)
- ◆ *...hold to the primacy of preaching.* That is the method God chose for saving men. Shall we trade it for entertainment? Should we compress the meat out for a diet drink of milk? [1 Cor 1:21](#)
- ◆ *...have a healthy, small group structure.* It is in the relationship of small groups that we have the opportunity to ask questions, confess ourselves, and build relationships with others. Bible classes, contact groups, home studies or hospitality opportunities; those who don't use small groups lose their ties to their brethren and opportunities to grow spiritually. [Eph 4:16](#) *continued on the next page.....*

