

*Natural Church Development* Eight Characteristics  
By Christian Schwarz

1. Empowering Leadership

*People are trained to encourage others, not control them!*

2. Gift-oriented ministry

*People are able to articulate their spiritual gifts for ministry in the world*

3. Passionate Spirituality

*Not just "doing my duty" but passionate about what I believe  
Pure doctrine vs. a passionate faith*

4. Functional Structures

*Mark McDonald "When you're engaged in mission the structures will follow."*

5. Inspiring Worship Service

*This does not mean you have to have a "seeker" service  
Is it inspiring? is the main question.*

6. Holistic Small Groups

*Purpose is focused, not merely social*

7. Need-oriented evangelism\*

*\*Principle based, 10% of all Christians are gifted for this and they are supported in it, focused on questions and needs of non-Christians. In both growing and declining churches the average person has 8.5 contacts with non-Christians. These are relationships that already exist!*

8. Loving relationships

*If your congregation is deeply conflicted and in need of healing; better do that healing first.*

Source: *Natural Church Development*, by Christian Schwarz, ChurchSmart Resources.

ISBN 1-889638-00-5 Order from ChurchSmart Resources, Carol Stream, IL  
1-800-253-4276 website: ChurchSmart.com