

## **Cultivating the Soil for Church Renewal: Encouraging Healthy, Biblical Church Growth**

Learn important Biblical principles that help set the stage for God to work, bringing new life and vibrancy to the local church. Whether your church is small and struggling, plateaued, or declining, there is hope. Together we'll look at some practical, applicable teachings centered on the word of God that will maximize the strengths of our churches as well as help us face the challenges that hinder them from growing.

**Scott Poling** serves as Senior Pastor of Harvest New Beginnings Church in Oswego, Illinois, located in the southwestern suburbs of Chicago. When he arrived 23 years ago, Harvest was a very small, dying church; by God's enablement, it has been transformed into a strong, growing, vibrant body of believers. Under the church leadership, Harvest has successfully navigated multiple building programs, land purchases, and the growing pains that come with change. Scott has gained a unique perspective which allows him to effectively speak to the concerns of different-sized churches, the pressures and criticisms that come with ministry, and the necessity of following the Lord's leading for renewal and revitalization in the local church. His passion is for preaching, leadership, evangelism, and encouraging those in church leadership, in both one-on-one mentoring relationships as well as in conference settings, including Harvest's annual M4 Ministry Enrichment Conference. Scott grew up in and around Ocean City, New Jersey. At the age of 17, he received Christ as his Savior and then followed God's call into ministry. He received his B.S. degree from Cedarville University and his MTh from Dallas Theological Seminary. Scott has been married to his wife, Carla, for 27 years and they have three sons, two daughters, and one son-in-law. His interests include visiting national parks, trail running with friends, and ultra-marathon endurance races.

- I. It takes Focus (Matthew 4:19, Luke 19:10, Matthew 28:19-20a, Acts 1:8b)
  
- II. It takes Faith...in God (Romans 1:14-16, Matthew 16:18b, Matthew 28:18-20)
  
- III. It takes Fortitude (Ephesians 6:19-20, 2 Timothy 4:5b, 1 Corinthians 15:58)
  
- IV. It takes Funds (2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 1 Timothy 5:17-18)
  
- V. It takes Freedom (Mark 7:8, 1 Corinthians 9:19-22)

- VI. It takes Feeding (2 Timothy 4:2, John 21:15-17)
  
- VII. It takes Followers (Ephesians 4:11-12a)
  
- VIII. It takes Faith...in people (Ephesians 4:11-12, Exodus 19:13-27)
  
- IX. It takes Fellowship (Acts 2:42-47)
  
- X. It takes Fun (Acts 2:46-47, Philippians 4:4-5, Nehemiah 8:10)