



John Maxwell says, "Everything rises and falls on leadership." Some leaders explain it even further by saying, "Leadership rises and falls on relationships. And, relationships rise and fall on communication." These three factors - leadership, relationships, and communication - often determine the health of a church. They create a three-legged stool that can not stand alone but together can hold tremendous weight. Today's healthy churches have leaders who understand the importance of relationships and is intentional in communicating purpose and vision with all within the sphere of those relationships. Church health is dependent on people of vision who seek God's will, spend time in prayer and in God's Word. In these days everyone seems to be health conscious. If we have a pain, shortness of breath, or a general change in physical condition, we call the doctor. Isn't it interesting that we sometimes fail to have the same concerns about God's work? As important as our own physical condition is, the spiritual condition of His church should be even more important to us. The prayer life, the outreach ministry, spiritual growth - just to mention a few of the vital signs of a healthy church - must claim our attention if we are to succeed in fulfilling God's purpose for us.

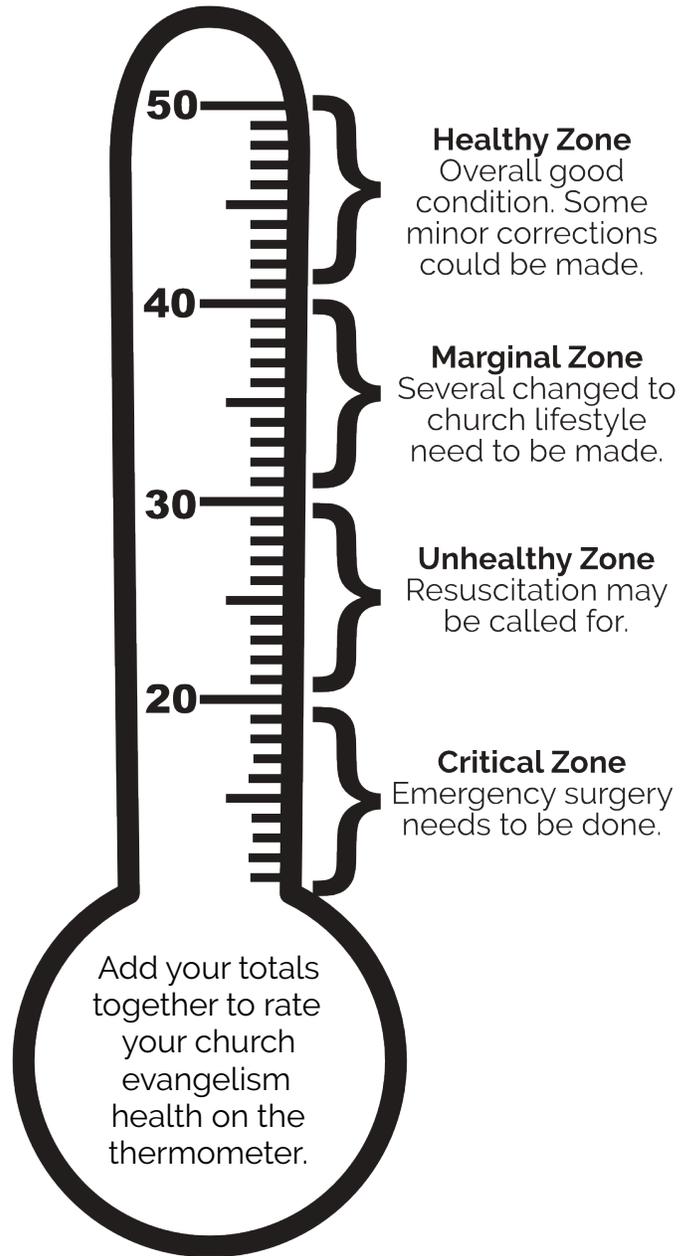
Instructions

- Score each of the seven pages using a number between 1 (low) & 5 (high). This should be YOUR best understanding of how your church is doing.
- All 10 statements must be scored. If you don't know one, then score a 3.
- Total each page and record your score. Check the illustrations on each page to see how your scores measure up.
- Transfer the total score from each page to the appropriate block on the My Church Health Index (MCHI) on page 8 . Make sure each score matches the appropriate block.
- Total the "MCHI" page and divide by 7 for the Overall Health Score.
- Go back to each page and circle the 2 statements that you scored lowest on each page. If more than 2 have the same score, make your best choice.
- Transfer those numbers to the appropriate blanks on the "MCHI". When this is done, relax and have some refreshments while we wait for everyone to finish. Please don't talk at the table while others are finishing.

Sunday School / Discipleship Check-Up

On scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in evangelism?

- There is evidence that a majority of members share their faith with others and invite them to church
- Church emphasizes prayer for spiritually lost people to come to know Jesus as personal Savior and Lord
- Church has a system for greeting first time guests, receiving information from them, and helping them to feel welcome
- Church is organized and is training individuals in how to share their faith with others
- Church has a plan to identify guests and have members make a follow-up contact with them
- Members are often encouraged to identify people in their social network and to build relationships and share Christ with them
- Church plans and conducts regular outreach emphasis (e.g. special evangelist events, servant evangelism projects, block parties, VBS, musical programs, etc.)
- Church keeps and utilizes up-to-date prospect list
- Baptism is celebrated at least quarterly
- Church intentionally stays aware of the demographic make-up and needs within their community context and plans evangelistic strategies accordingly
- TOTAL EVANGELISM CHECK-UP COUNT



Fellowship Check-Up

On scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in Sunday School/discipleship?

Pastors regularly emphasize the importance of Sunday school/small groups and discipleship from the pulpit

Sunday school/small group and discipleship leaders are enlisted early based on their spiritual gifts and are given appropriate training

Sunday school leaders regularly attend planned workers meetings

A new members class or group is made available

Appropriate bible study/discipleship curriculum materials are provided for each age group

Church leadership has a clear discipleship plan to help all believers mature in Christ

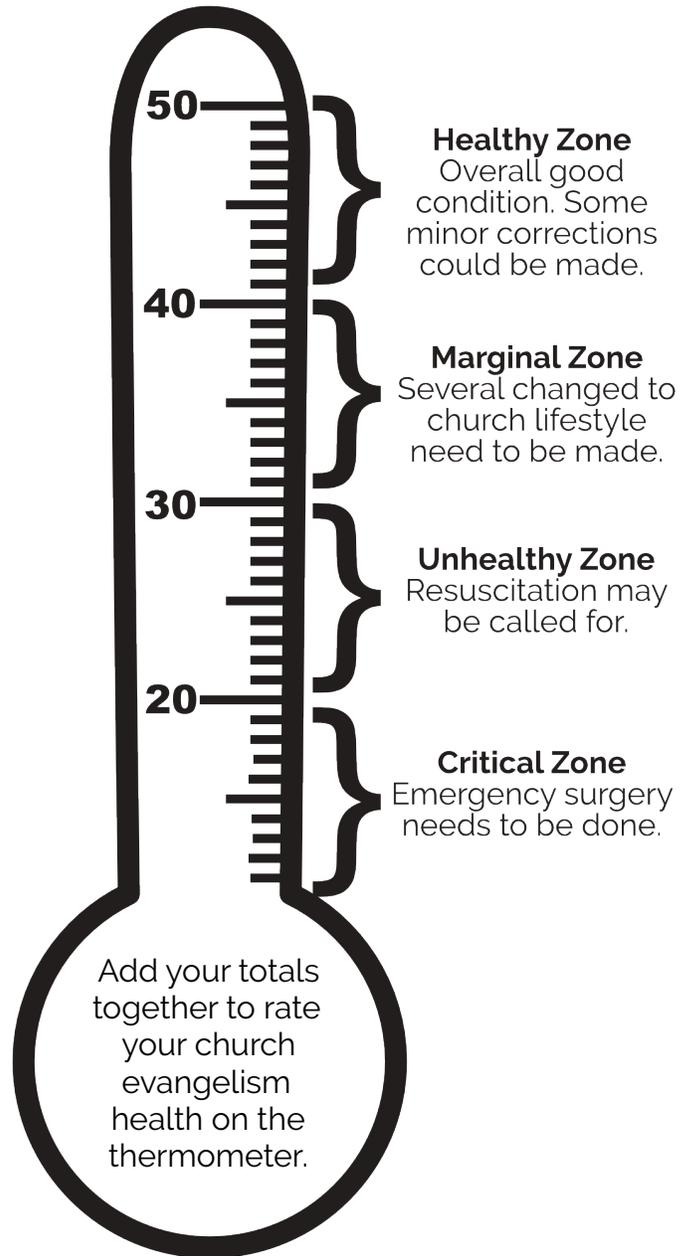
Sunday school classes enroll new members regularly

Church encourages and resources families to have a weekly "family bible study" time together

Church regularly starts new Sunday school classes or small groups

Opportunities are provided throughout the year for doctrinal and special emphasis bible studies

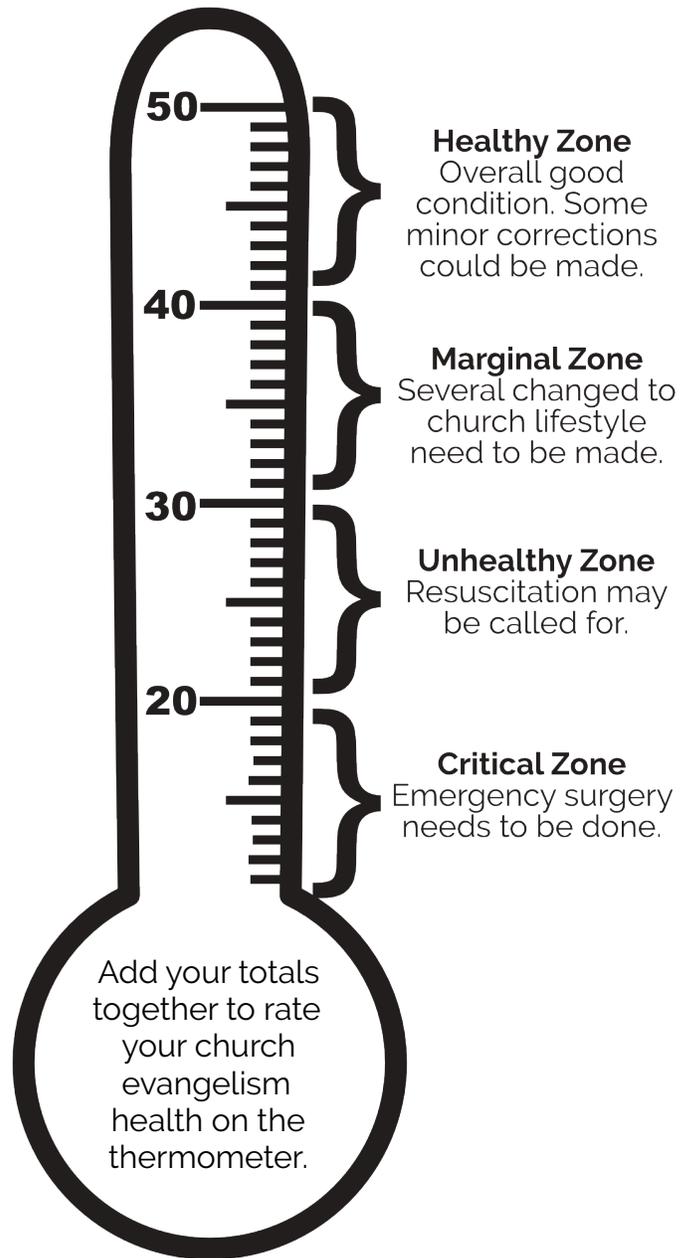
TOTAL SUNDAY SCHOOL/DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-UP COUNT



Missions / Ministry Check-Up

On scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in fellowship?

- Church teaches on and encourages believers to unite with the church through baptism or statement of faith
- Church has created an environment of belongings through grace, acceptance, support, and mutual encouragement
- Church provides opportunities to build relationships through fellowship activities beyond Sunday
- Church provides fellowship through special emphasis such as senior adult day, student day, etc. and/or holidays
- Church provides opportunities to build fellowship through praying and serving together
- Sunday school or small group provides pastoral care to its members
- There are regular sermons focusing on the significance of fellowship and living in community with other Christians
- Church has developed strategies for extending fellowship to those who are not part of the church
- Church is careful not to overburden staff members and volunteers so that they have time to build relationships
- Church leaders have been trained to handle conflicts constructively and practice church discipline when necessary



TOTAL FELLOWSHIP CHECK-UP COUNT

On scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in mission/ministry?

Church has a plan to identify and appropriately meet the benevolent needs within the congregation and community

Church provides opportunities for church members to discover their gifts, talents, and strengths; and a clear pathway to find ministries where they can be deployed

Church is organized for effective ministry to members, prospects, and family members

Church equips people for ministry/missions through ongoing Bible study and special training events

Church involves individuals and groups in ministry/mission projects

Church provides ministry/missions projects not only for individuals but also where families can participate as an unit

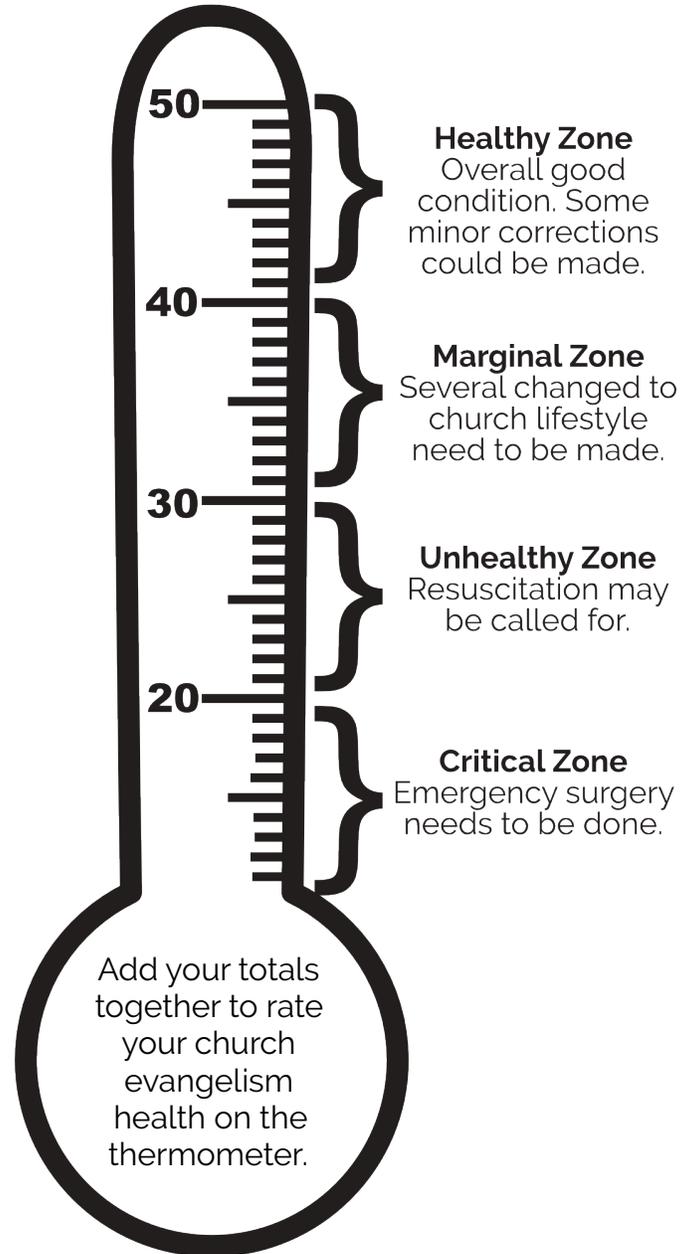
Church demonstrates a climate open to ministry/missions in the local community and area

Church demonstrates an openness to sponsor, aid or participate in a new church start

Church surveys the needs of members and non-members to determine future ministry goals

Church body is regularly involved in missions education for all age groups

TOTAL MISSIONS/MINISTRY CHECK-UP COUNT



Worship Check-Up

On scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in worship?

Church acknowledges Jesus as Lord of all and responds by expressing love for Him in worship

Church encourages/resources members to experience God's power/presence by seeking Him personally and daily

Teachers establish an environment in Bible study classes that lead people to encounter the life-changing God

Church has examined how well its worship style and time(s) fits members/prospective members and has made changes when necessary

Leaders are prepared and opportunity is given for the spiritually lost to respond to the gospel at every worship service

Church regularly involves volunteers in the worship service, both in planning, conducting, and evaluating

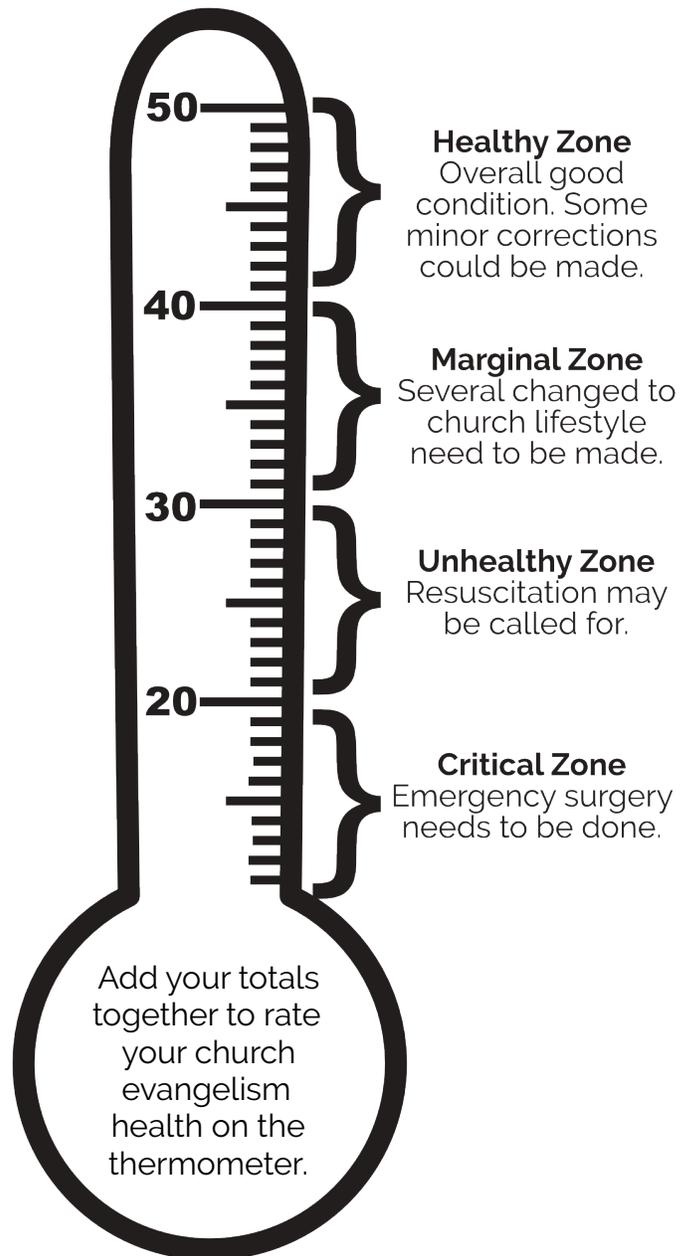
Worship leaders plan ahead and use variety.

Church receives the offering as an act of worship

The word of God is proclaimed faithfully and persuasively

Church services are designed to lead individuals to actively participate in corporate expressions of worship

TOTAL WORSHIP CHECK-UP COUNT



Leadership Check-Up

On scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in leadership?

Church has a written mission/vision statement that is communicated well in a variety of ways

Church understands its purpose, how to accomplish the mission, and what the results will be

The pastor often communicates the overall purpose of the church and has vision for fulfilling it

Most church members know and could explain what is expected of them as a member

It is clear, how, when, and by whom decisions are made in the church

Leaders are effectively enlisted, equipped, and empowered to oversee their area of responsibility

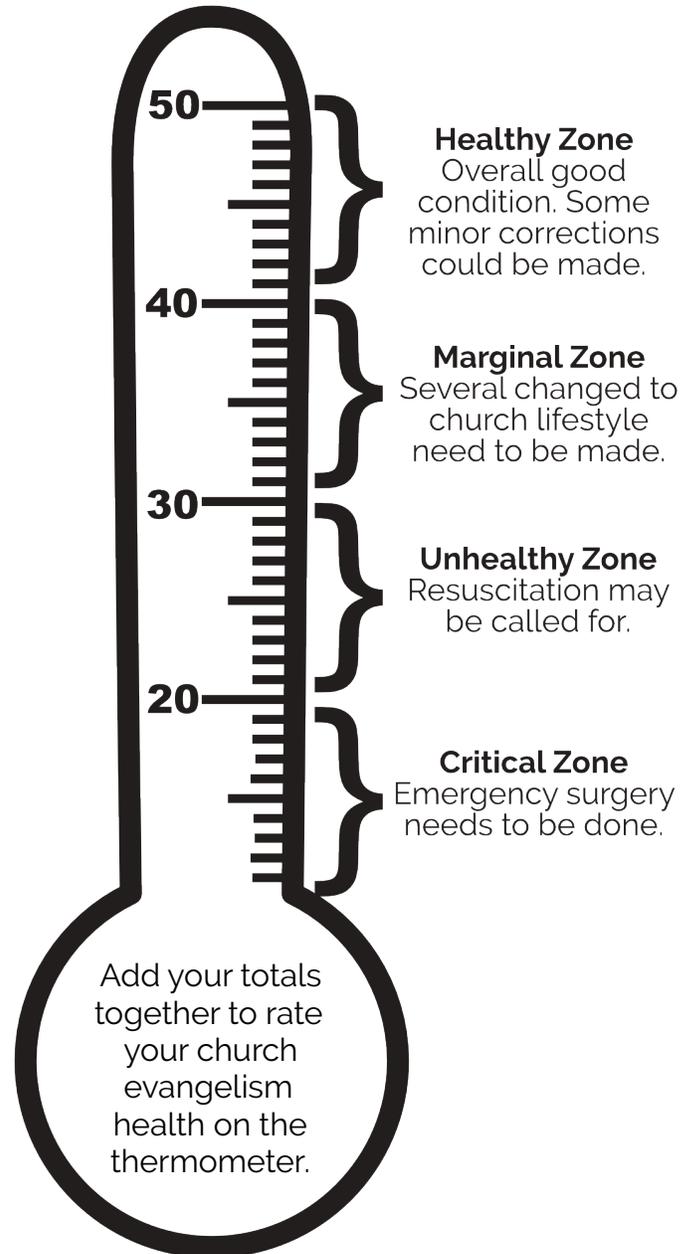
The church seeks to make sure its ministries have the resources necessary to fulfill its objectives

Church leaders demonstrate love to volunteers through public and private acts of appreciation

The key leaders of our church support, communicate, and actively fulfill the vision

There is a clear and intentional pathway for spiritual growth in the lives of the leaders within the church

TOTAL LEADERSHIP CHECK-UP COUNT



Stewardship Check-Up

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in stewardship?

Pastor and church leaders exemplify biblical stewardship in personal giving and testimony

Church encourages missions giving through the cooperative program, the association, the state convention and SBC special missions offerings

Church has stewardship/giving emphasis at least once a year

Christian financial management classes are offered

Biblical giving and the stewardship of life are taught as the norm for believers

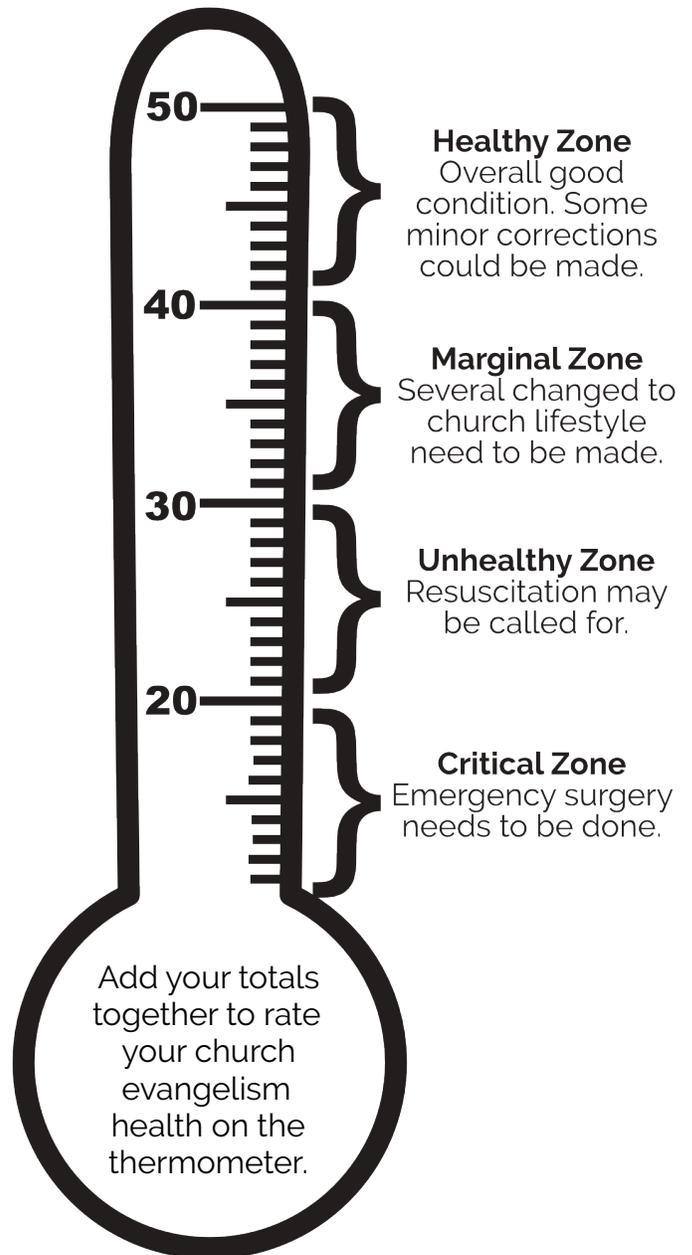
Website is attractive, functional, informative, up to date, and free of errors

Exterior appearance is inviting; adequate parking is provided for handicap and guests; grounds are well lighted and well kept and maintained

Interior appearance is clean and inviting; adequate and clean restrooms, children and preschool area is child-friendly, safe, and clean

Signage is visible from the street; entrances are properly marked; service times and office hours are posted; and interior signage give clear directions

TOTAL STEWARDSHIP CHECK-UP COUNT



My Church Health Index (MCHI)

Write the average score of all your church leadership team for each purpose. Subtotal the scores, then divide by seven to arrive at your total score. Use the scale to see the overall health of your church. For each area, work together as a team to list your top 2 priorities in the coming months.

Evangelism

1.

2.

Sunday School/ Discipleship

1.

2.

Fellowship

1.

2.

Ministry/Missions

1.

2.

Worship

1.

2.

Leadership

1.

2.

Stewardship

1.

2.

Total from
each:

Divide by 7:

= Overall
Health Score

Total divided by 7 = Overall Health Score

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the Missouri Baptist Convention and their office of Pastor Ministries for granting permission to Etowah Baptist Association for use of this resource in their Church Health Ministry.



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 Etowah Baptist Association