



VITAL SIGNS

of a Healthy Church



Welcome to



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 illustrations at the bottom of the page.
- 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.

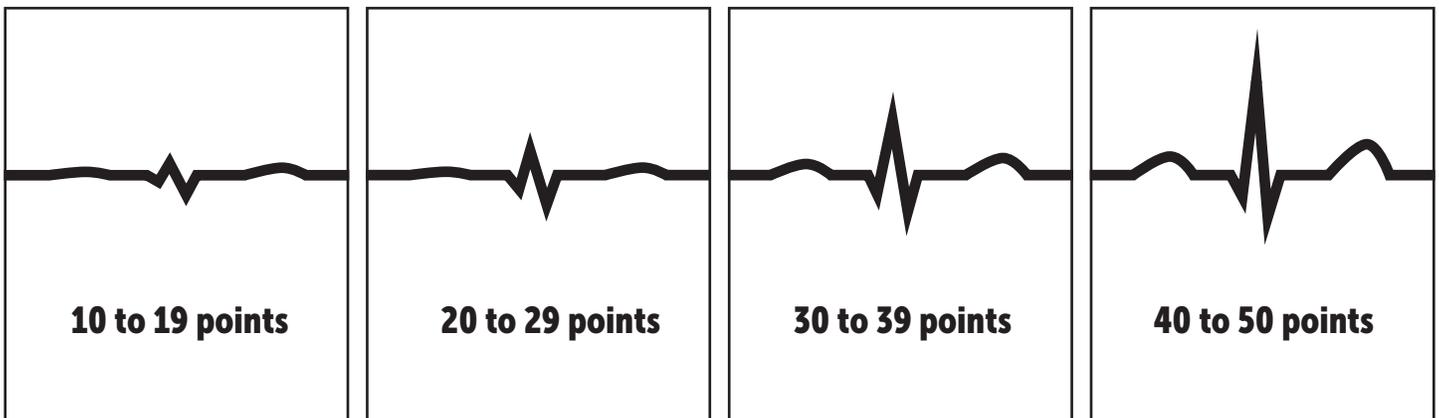
Evangelism Checkup

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

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

TOTAL CHECKUP COUNT:
Evangelism

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover the health of your church's evangelism. Notice the chart below. Where does your church's evangelism health fall on the scale?



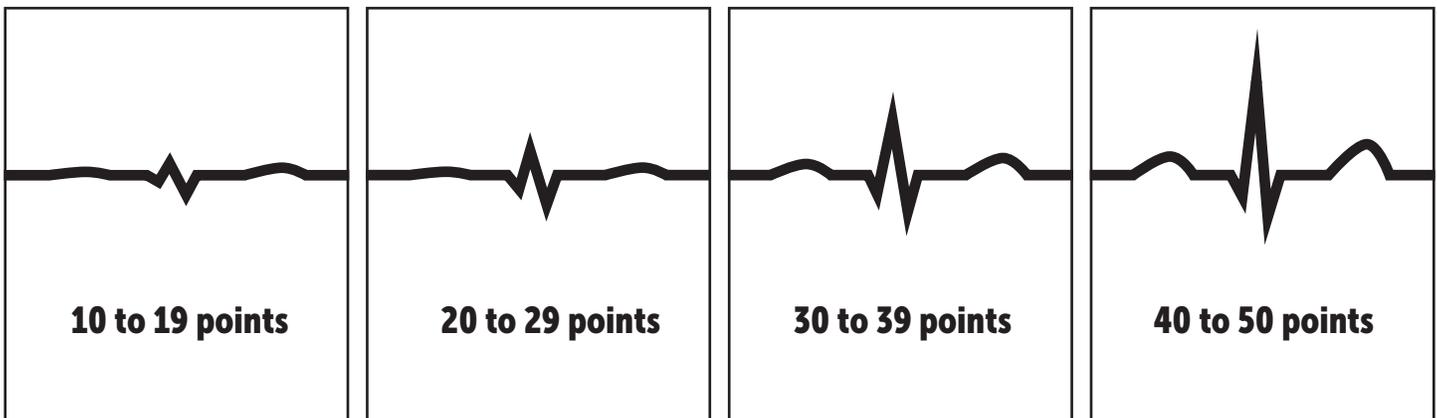
Sunday School/Discipleship Checkup

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

- 1. Pastors regularly emphasize the importance of Sunday school/small groups and discipleship from the pulpit
- 2. Sunday school/small group and discipleship leaders are enlisted early based on their spiritual gifts and are given appropriate training
- 3. Sunday school leaders regularly attend planned workers meetings
- 4. A new members class or group is made available
- 5. Appropriate bible study/discipleship curriculum materials are provided for each age group
- 6. Church leadership has a clear discipleship plan to help all believers mature in Christ
- 7. Sunday school classes enroll new members regularly
- 8. Church encourages and resources families to have a weekly "family bible study" time together
- 9. Church regularly starts new Sunday school classes or small groups
- 10. Opportunities are provided throughout the year for doctrinal and special emphasis bible studies

TOTAL CHECKUP COUNT:
Sunday School/Discipleship

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover the health of your church's Sunday School/discipleship. Notice the chart below. Where does your church's Sunday School/discipleship health fall on the scale?



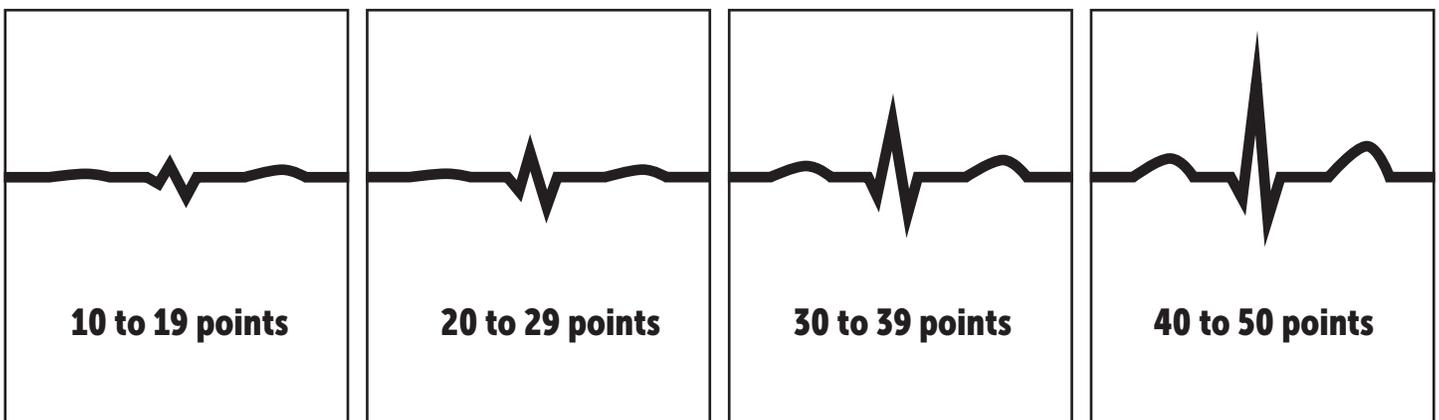
Fellowship Checkup

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

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

TOTAL CHECKUP COUNT:
Fellowship

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover the health of your church's fellowship. Notice the chart below. Where does your church's fellowship health fall on the scale?



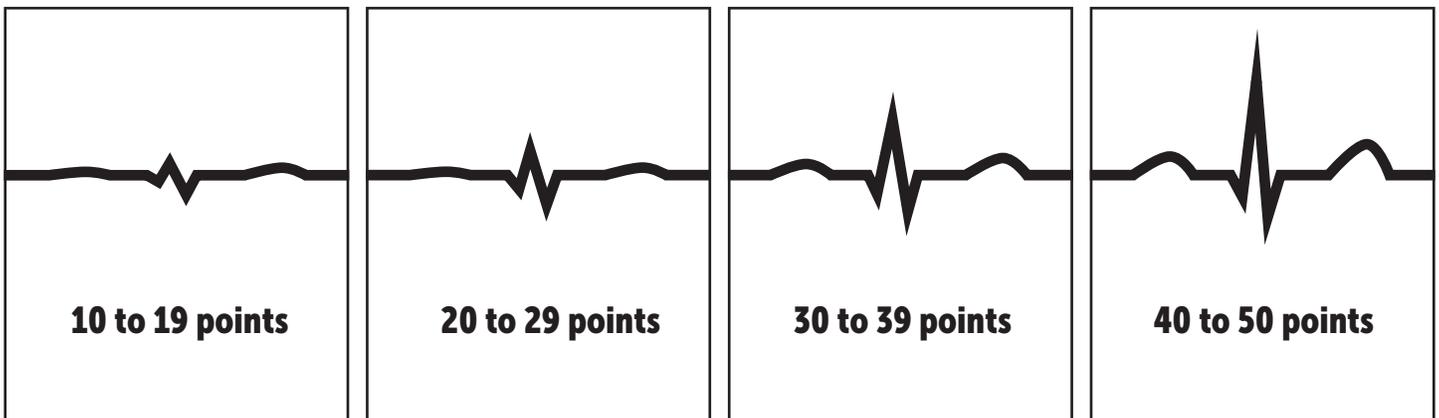
Mission/Ministry Checkup

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

- 1. Church has a plan to identify and appropriately meet the benevolent needs within the congregation and community
- 2. 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
- 3. Church is organized for effective ministry to members, prospects, and family members
- 4. Church equips people for ministry/missions through ongoing Bible study and special training events
- 5. Church involves individuals and groups in ministry/mission projects
- 6. Church provides ministry/missions projects not only for individuals but also families can participate as an unit
- 7. Church demonstrates a climate open to ministry/missions in the local community and area
- 8. Church demonstrates an openness to sponsor, aid or participate in a new church start
- 9. Church surveys the needs of members and non-members to determine future ministry goals
- 10. Church body is regularly involved in missions education for all age groups

TOTAL CHECKUP COUNT:
Mission/Ministry

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover the health of your church's mission/ministry. Notice the chart below. Where does your church's mission/ministry health fall on the scale?



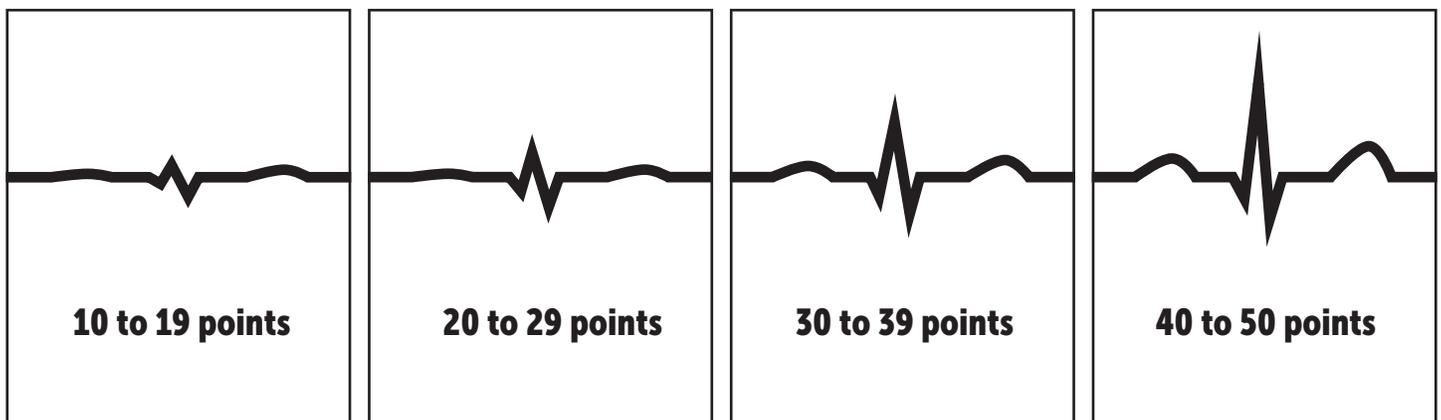
Worship Checkup

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

- 1. Church acknowledges Jesus as Lord of all and responds by expressing love for Him in worship
- 2. Church encourages/resources members to experience God's power/presence by seeking Him personally through daily prayers and devotion
- 3. Teachers establish an environment in Bible study classes that lead people to encounter the life-changing God
- 4. Church has examined how well its worship style and time(s) fit its members/prospective members and has made changes when necessary
- 5. Leaders are prepared and opportunity is given for the spiritually lost to respond to the gospel at every worship service
- 6. Church regularly involves volunteers in the worship service, both in planning, conducting, and evaluating
- 7. Worship leaders plan ahead and use a variety of creative elements in worship services such as readings, different styles of music, drama, video, sermons, etc.
- 8. Church receives the offering as an act of worship
- 9. The word of God is proclaimed faithfully and persuasively
- 10. Church services are designed to lead individuals to actively participate in corporate expressions of worship

TOTAL CHECKUP COUNT:
Worship

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover the health of your church's worship. Notice the chart below. Where does your church's worship health fall on the scale?



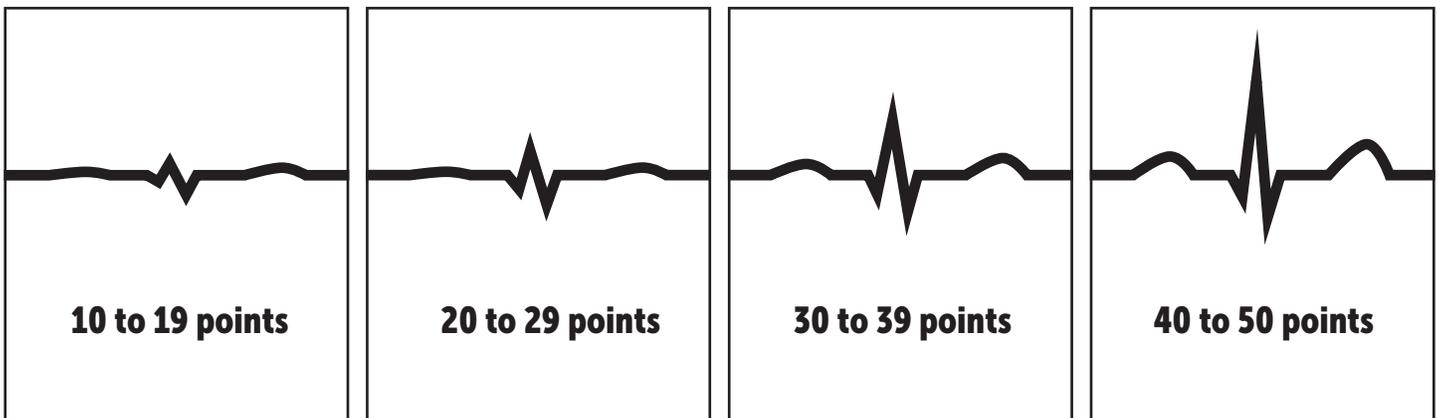
Leadership Checkup

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

- 1. Church has a written mission/vision statement that is communicated well in a variety of ways
- 2. Church understands its purpose, how to accomplish the mission, and what the results will be
- 3. The pastor often communicates the overall purpose of the church and has vision for fulfilling it
- 4. Most church members know and could explain what is expected of them as a member
- 5. It is clear, how, when, and by whom decisions are made in the church
- 6. Leaders are effectively enlisted, equipped, and empowered to oversee their area of responsibility
- 7. The church seeks to make sure its ministries have the resources necessary to fulfill its objectives
- 8. Church leaders demonstrate love to volunteers through public and private acts of appreciation
- 9. The key leaders of our church support, communicate, and actively fulfill the vision
- 10. There is a clear and intentional pathway for spiritual growth in the lives of the leaders within the church

TOTAL CHECKUP COUNT:
Leadership

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover the health of your church's leadership. Notice the chart below. Where does your church's leadership health fall on the scale?



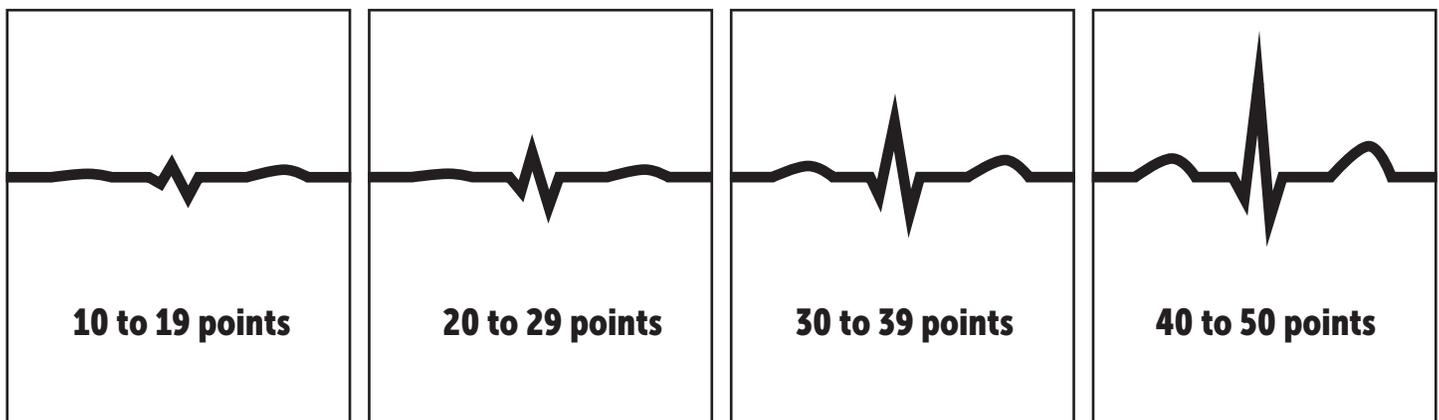
Stewardship Checkup

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

- 1. Pastor and church leaders exemplify biblical stewardship in personal giving and testimony
- 2. Church encourages missions giving through the cooperative program, the association, and SBC/SCBC special missions offering
- 3. Church has stewardship/giving emphasis at least once a year
- 4. Christian financial management classes are offered
- 5. Biblical giving and the stewardship of life are taught as the norm for believers
- 6. The church offers intentional stewardship education that includes estate plan giving to the church
- 7. Website is attractive, functional, informative, up to date, and free of errors
- 8. Exterior appearance is inviting; inadequate parking is provided for handicap and guests; grounds are well lighted and well kept and maintained
- 9. Interior appearance is clean and inviting; adequate and clean restrooms, children and preschool area is child-friendly, safe, and clean
- 10. Signage is visible from the street, entrances are properly marked, service times and office hours are posted, and interior signage give clear directions

TOTAL CHECKUP COUNT:
Stewardship

When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover the health of your church's stewardship. Notice the chart below. Where does your church's stewardship health fall on the scale?

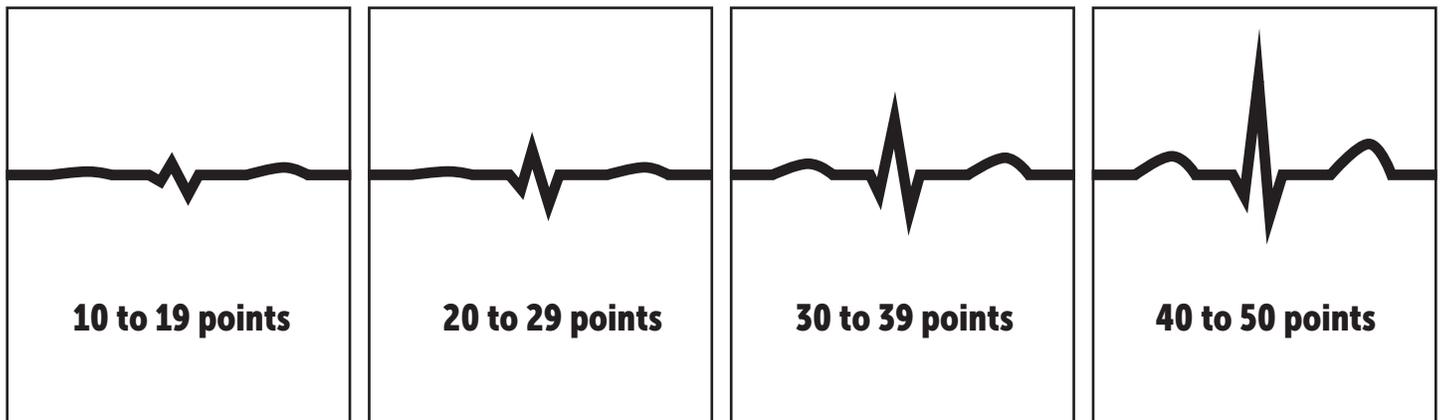


My Church Health Index (MCHI)

In the spaces below, 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 at the bottom to see the overall health of your church. Spend time discussing each purpose and specific needs that show up on the checkup sheets. Then write the two top priorities you would like to work on 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. _____

<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	SUBTOTAL CHECKUP COUNT: Subtotal divided by 7 = Overall Health Score	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
		OVERALL HEALTH SCORE



Church Name: _____ Association: _____

“. . . upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

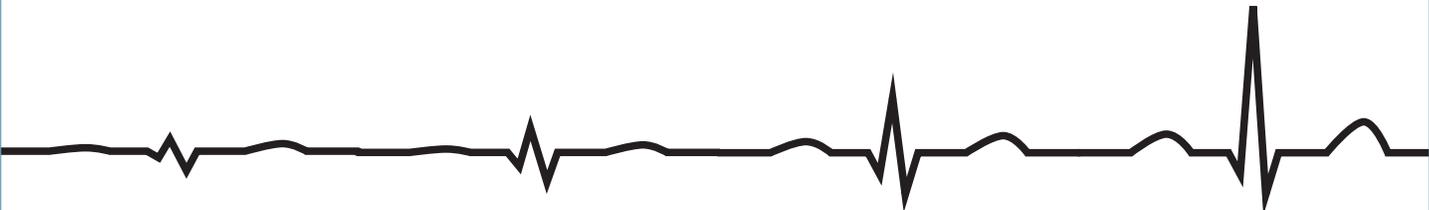
Matthew 16:18

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the Missouri Baptist Convention for granting Lexington Baptist Association permission to utilize these materials as we seek to strengthen churches.



LEXINGTON
BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION



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