

The Defacto Church

(Your City's biggest church!)



The amount of believers that no longer are part of a local church is quite alarming. I just recently welcomed about six people to our church that hadn't been anywhere for four years and they were in ministry at one time. These people all believe in God still, but have just lost faith in the church, which is a sad state of affairs on both sides.

I've often said the largest church in most towns and cities is the Roman church. In Newcastle I believe the Roamin church is about 1,500 people. 1,500 people that are just roaming around looking for the perfect place, only attending now and then, but never committing.

I've often likened these people to the Samaritan woman that Jesus met by the well. He asked her to get her husband. Her reply was I have none. She was right, but Jesus said: "You've had five husbands and the one you are with now is a **defacto** relationship (attending but not committed).

The average believer that has been saved for over 10 to 20 years have possibly been committed, or could I say even married to about five churches, because the other church experiences were a little damaging. These people have opted for a more casual relationship with the church, one that is not as demanding, more of:

- ◆ a casual spectator instead of a participator
- ◆ offering a tip instead of a tithe
- ◆ coming monthly instead of weekly
- ◆ no longer sharing their faith but shying away from it
- ◆ no longer living for what you can do for your church but what it can do for you.

We must remember in all of this, life is not just made up of what happens to you but how we respond to it. It is like last month I got bitten by a mosquito. It was a relatively small prick, but because of the way I reacted to it (rubbing it with the soul of my shoes) it became this ugly sore. The lesson is do not react to the pricks of life!

The Five Husbands or Churches

1. **Disappointment.**
Let down, or cheated on, it would have to be one of the worse things to happen in a relationship and when the leadership morally is fall there is a disappointment that comes into the body that makes the heart sick. But let's face it as long as we are

human these things will happen. It happened in the Bible with various people of God. It has happened in every denomination, no matter how spiritual, theological or holy they are. What makes a people of true spiritually is how they respond to dealing with it. Some will play the blame game, but that is as old as Adam. Some will play the shame game or some will play the lame game. But what we need to do is rise up and deal with it as Christ would John 8:1-11, 2Corinthians 2:5-11 or possibly even 1Corinthians 5:1-5 (as Paul did) but most of all we need to come through the ordeal still loving Jesus and believing in His church.

2. Discouragement

A marriage or church where there is unfulfilled expectation, where my plans are not fully realized or have ever been fulfilled. Then again my plans could have been unrealistic expectations, ego or selfish desires. Then again they could just have a time factor to them and we weren't patient.

3. Dictator

This is the church or relationship where you can be used and abused, or controlled and manipulated, but let's face it, if that has happened wasn't that something in us that needed changing and adjusting like the ability to say NO! These are painful churches and do create a lot of bad carnage throughout the body. But never-the-less we are still responsible for our own choices. As a minister, I have been used and abused by a lot of church folks over the years, people that have just wasted my time, energy and money but I'm not going to pull back from pastoring, leading, ministering and helping people. I'm just going to be wiser about who and how and when I give of myself.

4. Disunified

Some churches are like marriages and are always fighting having splits and this can really get you down and wear you down as you are forever putting out fires. It can make you think: "what is it all about", but we must realise the church is a spiritual enterprise and

will encounter opposition. The devil hates the church and will do anything to divide it. Sadly a large portion of that opposition is from within the church. I've seen it come from the control agents, the self righteous and religious, the super spiritual and those that cannot embrace, change or grow. This actually re-enforces my commitment for breakthrough, knowing that our fight is not against flesh and blood but power in higher realms. So don't pull back—step it up.

5. The Dull

So many marriages fall apart because they become dull as it is with churches—at times they become dull. I've been apart of these churches and I might have been guilty of even running a few for a time. I was part of a church where I'm sure they were handing out lemons before the service. But again, like a marriage it is up to you to make it interesting. To do things together. To be involved. Church for some is just a Sunday service, then no wonder it is boring. I was part of a church that had a dull morning service where we simply read from a prayer book. But because as a youth I was so active with a teenage remand ministry, a Saturday outreach, street witnessing, running a Bible study at work and social outings. So church for us was certainly not dull. Even now at Life Church, church for me happens all over the place among the homeless, the business person, at the hospital, in the A.A. meeting, in my neighbourhood, at Pub church, because to me Christianity and church is a lifestyle expression of faith which is very rarely dull.

Because of these church experiences, or more so our reaction to them, people have found themselves in the defacto church, poorly attending and uncommitted.

That is why the Samaritan woman was down at the well. She was still looking for another husband as it was a meeting place, a pick up spot. She is a picture of so many believers when it comes to not only church but life. They have never been satisfied.

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The thing that most threatens our faith is not another faith like Buddhism or Islam but consumerism and what's in it for me mentality—causing words like loyalty, commitment and sacrifice to be by-words among the people.

When the woman met Jesus she was satisfied, so satisfied that she was telling others. In fact her whole community was impacted.

The Dynamic Church

When we really get satisfied with Jesus and get an understanding of the church as His creation and His vehicle for building the Kingdom and reading the word we will start to build a commitment and sacrifice for it.

The Bible uses the word Church about 115 times. Over 100 times it refers to the local church you are called to be part of. The rest are in reference to the universal church that we are all part of. So when people say I am the church, well yes you are but not just the universal church, a local church that you attend and are committed to.

I love what Rick Warren says in his book on "The Purpose Driven Church":

"I love the church of Jesus Christ with all of my heart despite all of its faults (due to our sinfulness) it is still the most magnificent concept ever created. It has been God's chosen instrument of blessing for 2000 years. It has survived persistent abuse, horrifying persecution and widespread neglect. Parra-church

organisations and other Christian groups will come and go but the church will last for eternity. It is worth giving our lives for and deserves our best.."
Rick Warren.

The Bible refers to the church as:

"The bride of Christ"
(something he is married to).

The body of Christ
(something He operates through),

The family of God
(something we have relationship with),

The assembly or gathering
(somewhere we meet together),

The army of God
(something that fights—the spiritual force of evil in heavenly realms),

The fellowship
(something that relates and enjoys the favour of others)

The flock
(something that moves and hangs together)

The temple of God
(that we house together what God does through us)

The church of Jesus Christ
(something that belongs to Him and is owned and lead by Him).

Jesus said "I will build my church and hell won't stop it." (Matthew 16)

2000 years later there are about 3.7 million churches, 67,000 denominations and increasing at a rate of 50,000 churches a year.

Let's not lose faith in the church, in the local church you are a part of. It is God's plan A and we have no plan B. So let's get the revelation of what God intended for the church... "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms," Ephesians 3:10

What's my role with the church... "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work". Ephesians 4:16

My job is discovering my part and making sure I am connected to the other parts and functioning in it.

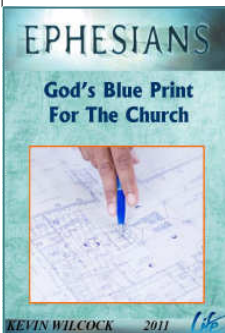
And go for it!

Kevin

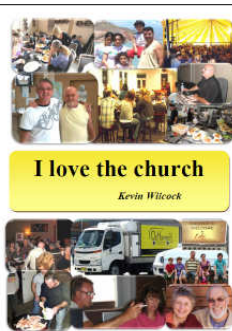
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A powerful 7 CD series. This is God's blue print for the church. Paul wrote this amazing letter in prison. It has been a great source of inspiration in building my personal life and the local church. May the revelations of the unsearchable riches of Christ and His church grab you.



I LOVE THE CHURCH Kevin Wilcock - \$40.00
The church is one of the greatest things God ever created. It is His vehicle He has designed to touch and bring the world to Himself. This book is for the local church which is God's vehicle for reaching your community. How's it running? What gear is it in; 1st, 2nd, or maybe just making a lot of noise in neutral? Could it possibly even be in reverse? My desire in this book is to simply come along side and help your church move up a gear or two, and possibly, even into top gear where it is fulfilling all of what God has destined for it to be.

For Book & CD pack orders send to:

Life Church * P.O Box 2158 * Dangar NSW 2309

Or Email your order with your credit card details to: info@lifechurch.org.au

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL CAREFORCE LIFEKEYS
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KEVIN'S TRAVEL

Tamworth (Ministers Connect)
Wollongong
Gosford (Ministers Connect)
Thailand
Sydney (Friends in Ministry)
Engadine
Campbelltown
Canberra
Thirroul

February 25th
February 27th
March 4th
March 6th to 11th
April 6th
April 10th
May 20th
May 21st to 22nd
May 22nd





GlobeReach one of the works we support overseas

PHILIPPINES—Kevin Wilcock

This would have been one of my most fruitful trips into the Philippines, taking along with me Ryan, a 25 year old young mate I've known for over 7 years. I actually introduced him to his wife that he's been married to for 5 years now.

The other young man, I have known for just as long is Alvin, a youth Leader and teacher in the Philippines who I will introduce to his wife when he comes to Australia in May.

This is partly what makes my ministry more enjoyable and fruitfull is building into two great young guys with the call of God on their lives. The three of us would have hung 24/7. We ran, exercised together, prayed together, shared and ate together, ministered together, partied together,

shared the same room together.



This is intense mentoring and discipleship but I could see the impartation happening, (1 Corinthians 4, 14, 17).

I consider these two guys sons in the faith.

I had the opportunity to share at a minister's Leader's Conference for 2 days with over 100 people in attendance. We started this conference 6 years ago where ministers and leaders from around the region attended. We shared on building dynamic churches and local ministers also shared at the conference. They were fantastic!

Valentine Service

Ryan shared at the Valentine service with over 120 teenagers present. Ryan shared on destiny and his testimony. Up to 30 young people came to Christ.

The next morning I shared at the Life Church Philippines, now numbering 150. The Holy Spirit again fell as people came to Christ and were healed and majorly touched by His love and power. It was a great trip.

Kevin

info@lifechurch.org.au

Kevin is planning a major crusade next year in Feb 2012. He is looking to take 10 people who is connecting to him, who in turn will bring some who are connected to them.

CAMBODIA/BURMA—Donna Byham



A Whisper in God's Ear

These past few months have seen many changes happen with our ministry here in Cambodia. As all of

you have been faithfully praying and supporting us for a long time, I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know exactly what's been happening.

Towards the end of last year we did an evaluation of our ministry. This was for a number of reasons, the tow main ones being:

- ◆ To help ensure that we are remaining on track in our vision of developing Christian leaders of excellence and,

- ◆ To give recommendations for changes and improvements so that we could become more effective.

Overall it highlighted some very positive aspects, such as our students commitment to walking in the ways of God and their high achievements in education. Many areas of development were also highlighted such as the need for clearer guidelines and responsibilities, reconciliation of breakdown in some relationships, and particularly the need for a Manager within Cambodia to support the House Parents, (seen as how I spent most of 2009 in Australia, and am now spending much of my time ministering in Myanmar).

Over the past few months we have been working hard toward these improvements. Sadly, after 8 years of service, Sao and Chantha made the prayerful decision to

leave the ministry to spend time focusing on their own health and family. Gratefully through, Hak Kimhong, a father of two who is very gentle and committed, joined with us at the beginning of January as our Country Manager, while I've made a commitment to be here in Phnom Penh from January through to April to help with these transitions.

Change is not an easy thing, especially when the change impacts so directly on people's lives. The changes that we are all experiencing have brought about many mixed feelings, from sadness to joy; despair to hope; doubt to trust, and in some way we are needing to embrace all of these and continue our journey in serving God.

Blessings

Donna Byham

donnabyham@gmail.com

INDONESIA—Colin & Kim Crago



Demonstration

This is to let you know about the Jihad, 'solidarity' demonstration which is to be held right across the

country tomorrow, (Monday) to coincides with the beginning of Abu Baakar Bay'shir's trial. Already there have been a number of

churches burned in Jakarta plus murders of members of a large splinter Muslim group that acknowledges the Prophet Isa (Jesus) in Koran. Most of these atrocities occurred when Bay'shirs trial was previously due to start and was postponed.

In Solo the Jihad will have a demo and the Police have already solicited a 'Security Fund' to protect the Chinese business's in the main street. It will certainly be better if

Europeans are not seen in the vicinity. The last demo the had when Bay'shir was arrested was not a problem, the police kept it under control. Things have become worse since then and there are claims in some places (not here) that the Police are actually helping the Jihad.

Thanks in appreciation

Colin & Kim

Colin.crago@gmail.com



OzReach Conference— 20th, 22nd October 2011



Billy Kennedy leads the New Community network leadership team in Southampton and the Pioneer network across the U.K. Billy serves as a friend and advisor to a variety of churches and Christian organisations. He is a member of the International Council of the 24-7 prayer movement
Host: **Life Church, 15 Denison Street, Newcastle West 4961 0211** or email: info@lifechurch.org.au

FRIENDS IN MINISTRY

Is your church only growing through Christians transferring in?
Do you ever feel like you're shuffling deckchairs on the Titanic?



Would you love a fresh perspective on seeing the lost saved?



**From KKK to evangelist
Johnny Lee Clary
has a story to tell**



On Wed 6th April, at "The Hub", 37 Cambrai Ave, Engadine

It's time for the church to stop shuffling deckchairs on the Titanic—as Christians go "church shopping" and people who don't know Christ ignore the church and our message. It's time for leader to breathe a fresh wind of the Spirit and get a fresh heart for lost people.

Check out Johnny Lee Clary on "Enough Rope" with Andrew Denton at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBwIRq_hmjg

To book in phone Donna 49610211
or email info@lifechurch.org.au

Friends in Ministry is organized and hosted by Ozreach. We are simply a kingdom of God based ministry that wants to provide fellowship, connection and influence for ministers, leaders of ministries and business owners and managers.

Wednesday 8th June 2011

with

Syd & Sue Miller:

will share on identifying signs of falling into adultery and the journey of coming through at **The Briar Pub at 653 Moss Vale Road, Bowral on Wednesday 8th June** from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. There is a limit of 30 people and cost is \$10.00 per person plus the cost of your meal.

Friday 26th August 2011

with

Tim Hannah:

**Pastored large church
CEO for Compassion Australia
Lead Willow Creek Australia**

Will share on "Building Missional Churches" both locally and globally at **Tuggerah Lakes Church at 22 Adelaide Street, Tumby Umbi on Friday 26th August** at 6:30pm to 7:30pm. We will have dinner at a local restaurant after the meeting.

Thursday 20th October to Saturday 22nd October 2011

"BUILDING ALL ROUND MINISTRIES & CHURCHES."

with

Billy Kennedy

Leads the New Community network leadership team; Is an Advisor to a variety of churches and Christian organizations; Is a member of the International Council of the 24/7 prayer movement and Leads the Pioneer Network

Together with Kevin Wilcock

at **Life Church, 15 Denison Street, Newcastle West.** The theme of this Conference will be **"BUILDING ALL ROUND MINISTRIES & CHURCHES."** Billy Kennedy and Kevin will be sharing from Romans 15:18-20 on building fully integrated Missional churches that have a powerful proclamation, social engagement and signs and wonders into places where Christ is not known.

Supporting Our Building Fund

As you might have heard, we have to relocate buildings this year and what we buy is going to cost us roughly one million dollars. We are raising: \$150,000.00 from our church of which we are half way there, and \$250,000.00 from corporate sponsors of which we are 1/5th of the way there. And of course the rest we will loan.

I hope I am not going to sound too forward but I thought I would send an opportunity for my friends in ministry and business to be able to give into this great project. We are going to continue to run everything and more that we are presently doing so we will be buying the building through our charity arm, LifeShapers Family Services which is a deductible gift recipient and can provide you with a Tax Deductible Receipt if that helps.

We have included our account details below but if you are sending a cheque please make it payable to LifeShapers Family Services. I totally understand if you are not in a position to give or just simply feel not to give into this ministry but at the same time I felt to give this out to all the churches and friends I have given into over the years. The following newspaper article reveals the absolute necessity for a new building because of what we as a church do for the marginalised in our community.

Kevin

Account Name:

LifeShapers Building Fund

BSB:

062-806

Account Number:

1017 4605

All donations are fully tax deductible

