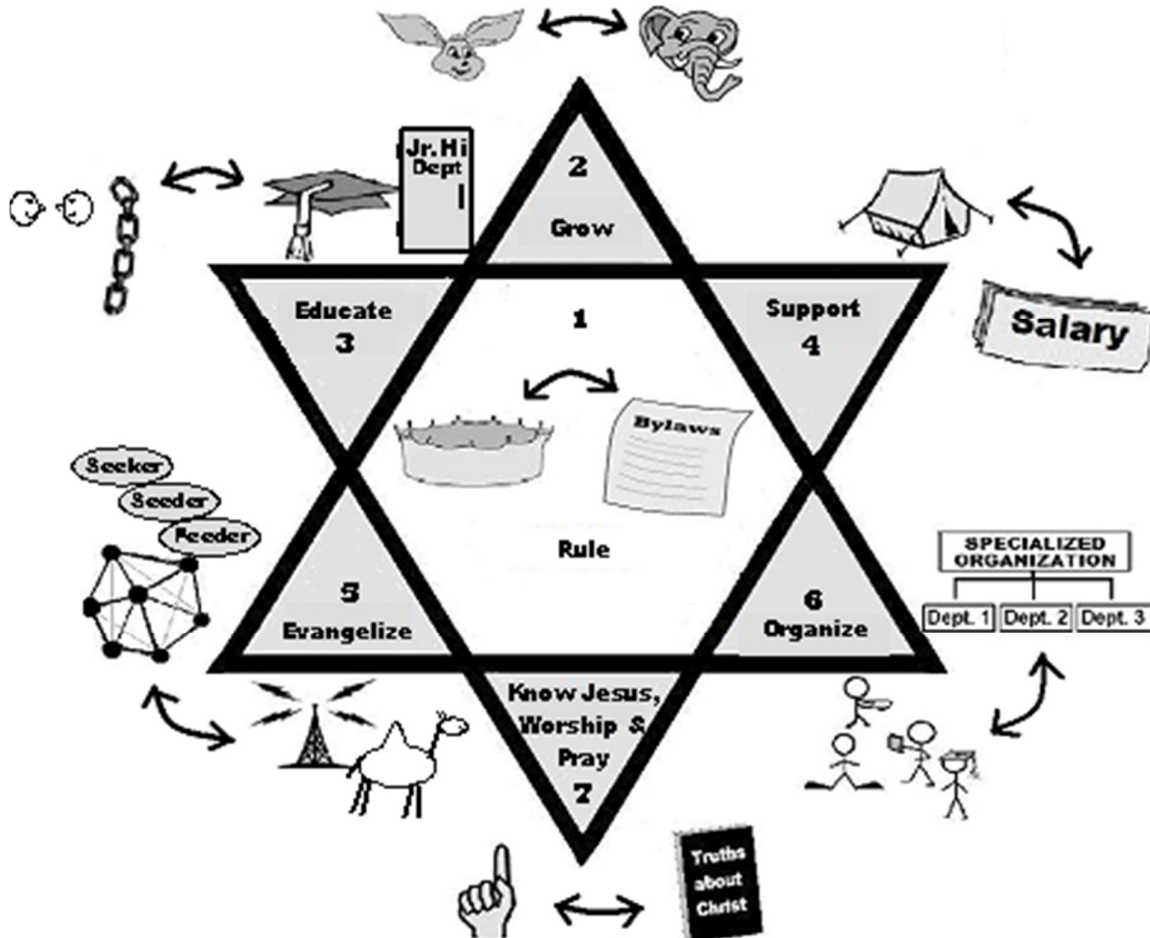


Balance the Body

Discern good ratios between diverse ways of doing key ministries. Church planting movements focus more on the icons to the left; sterile churches lean too far to the right. Both sides are necessary and biblical; stagnancy comes from failing to examine effective proportions. Proper ratios vary from church to church, and field to field, moving slightly from left to right as churches mature.



- RULE. Crown ↔ Bylaws.** Keep good alignment between obeying Jesus' commands, Matt. 28:18-20, and obeying God-given human leaders, Heb. 13:17.
- GROW. Rabbit ↔ Elephant.** Multiply small churches or cells, Acts 2:46, in due proportion to larger assemblies, also Acts 2:46.
- EDUCATE. Facing faces ↔ Jr. High Dept. Door.** Heed N.T. *one another* commands (including when parents train children, and older kids disciple younger, Col. 3:12-16), balanced with supplemental, age-segregated training in classrooms with monologues.
Chain ↔ Graduation cap. Balance mentoring chains to train new leaders, 2 Tim. 2:2, with academic training, Acts 22:3.
- SUPPORT. Tent ↔ Salary.** Mobilize 'tent-makers' and encourage non-budgeted projects, 2 Thess. 3:6-12; Acts 20:32-38; also support elders when a church is able and they are doing their job worthily, 1 Tim. 5:17-18.
- EVANGELIZE. Seeker, Seeder & Feeder groups, formed within *social networks* (connected dots, Acts 16:31) ↔ TV tower (media and large meetings) & camel (rich people, Mark 10:25). Let the gospel flow freely among friends; this happens easily in seeker cells. Keep this in due proportion to mass evangelism and working with the rich. Jesus warned against trying to push resistant camels through the needle's eye, but added that it is 'possible' for a few to get through Luke 18:25-27. To sustain church multiplication, form cells for all three kinds of people (new churches can deal with all three at once; older churches seldom can):
Seekers, Acts 19:1-10. Cell normally meets in seekers' homes, and often takes on the form of a party (Eg. Zacheus, Levi).
Seeders, Acts 10. New believers normally meet in one of their homes, pray and plan to spread the gospel among friends.
Feeders, Eph. 4:11-16. Mature believers do serious Bible study and prepare workers for seeker and seeder cells.**
- ORGANIZE. People with different gifts in same group ↔ Compartmentalized organization.** Organize the Body as Scripture requires; people with diverse gifts are in the same group, 1 Cor. 12, in due proportion to specialized ministry groups, Acts 6:1-7.
- KNOW JESUS, WORSHIP & PRAY. Hand pointing up ↔ Book with truths about Christ.** Meet the risen Christ, experience His powerful Presence, and pray in His name, John 14:18; 16:24, in due proportion to learning truths about Him, Heb. 5:12-14. On the cutting edge of a movement for Christ, experiencing the presence of Christ normally comes *first*.