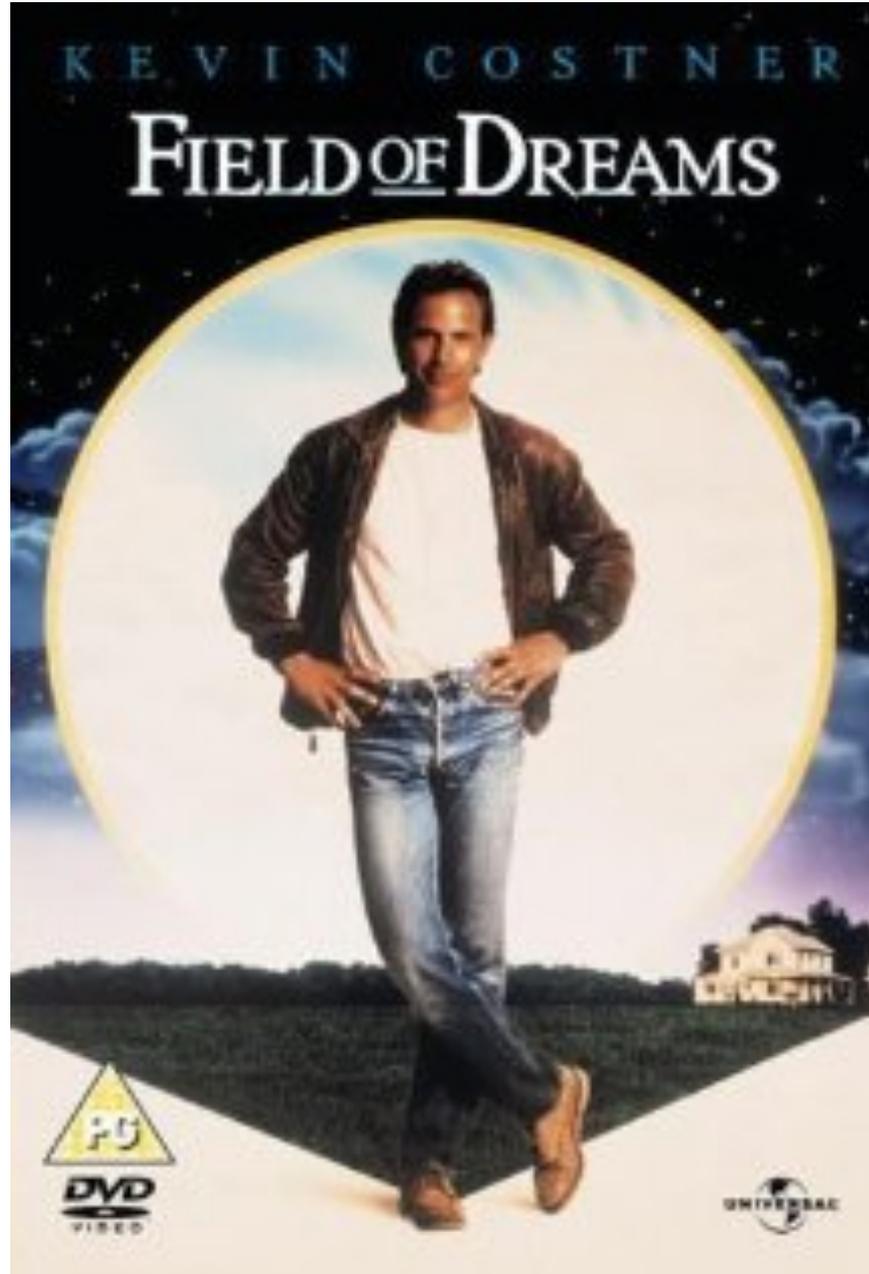


“If you build it they will come.”

By Ryan Wolfe

- “If you build it, he will come.”



**Why should churches
be more intentional?**

- People with disabilities want to attend church at the same rate as typical people do, but actually attend church at a rate of 44% compared to typical people at 57%.

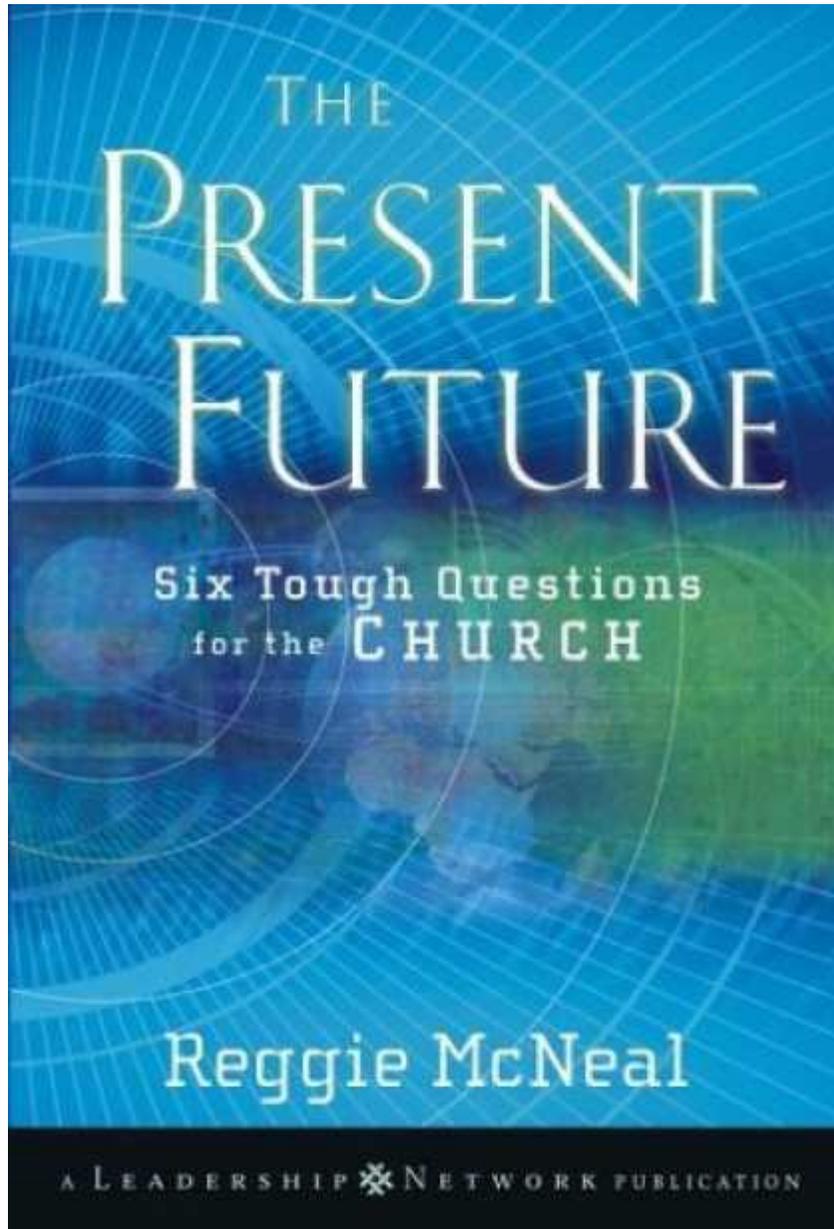
– Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities by Erik W. Carter

Luke 14 Mandate

- “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”
– Luke 14:13-14

Why don't they come?

- Physical Barriers
 - Is your church accessible?
 - Building, Parking, Stairs, Seating, etc.
- Attitude Barriers
 - Negative Attitudes, Discrimination, Lack of Awareness
- Assistance Barriers
 - Transportation, Staffing, etc.



- “Jesus’ evangelism strategy directly challenged the Pharisees’ approach. Instead of “Come and get it!” it was “Go get’em!” Instead of withdrawing from people for fear of contamination, he ate with them.”

– Reggie McNeal

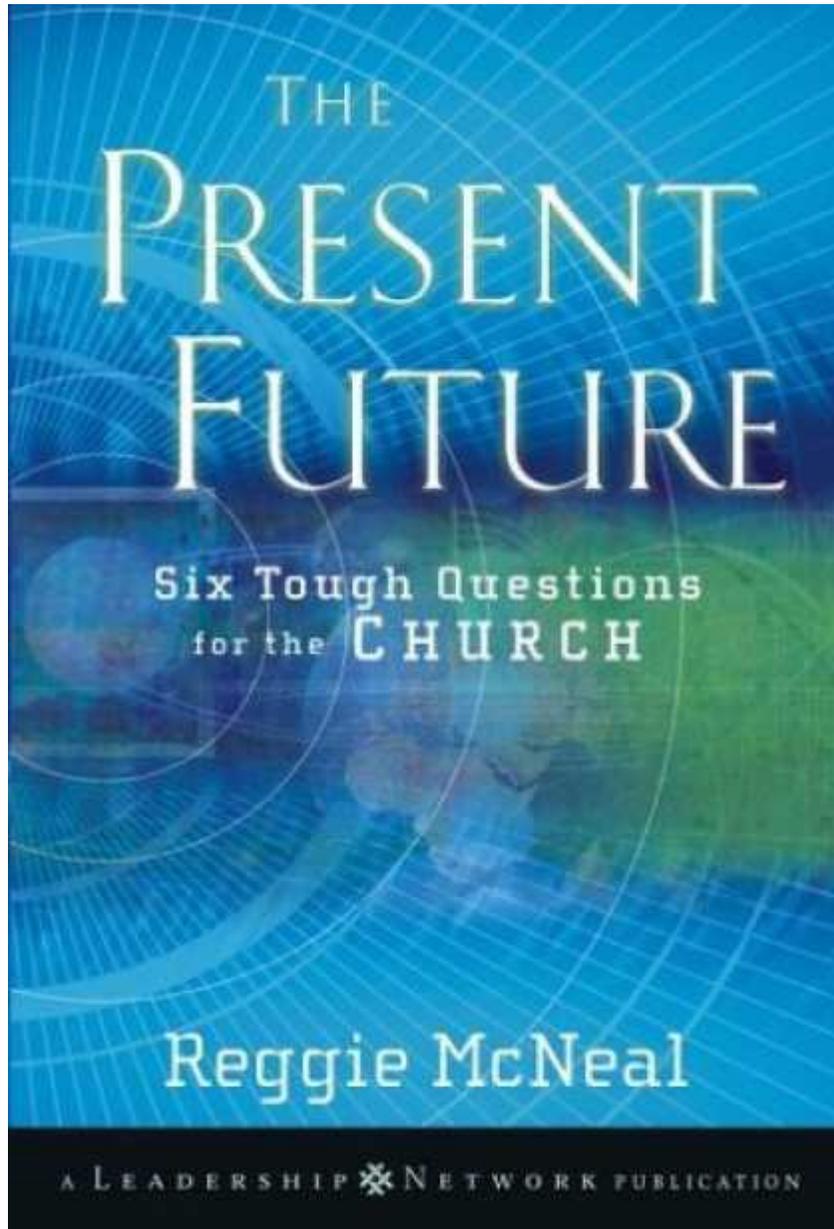
★ CANTON ★

CHALLENGER



20th ANNIVERSARY

BASEBALL



- “He did not send them to school and wait for them to graduate before giving them a significant assignment. He sent them out before they were ready to go and then helped them learn from their experiences.”
– Reggie McNeal



Why are you here?

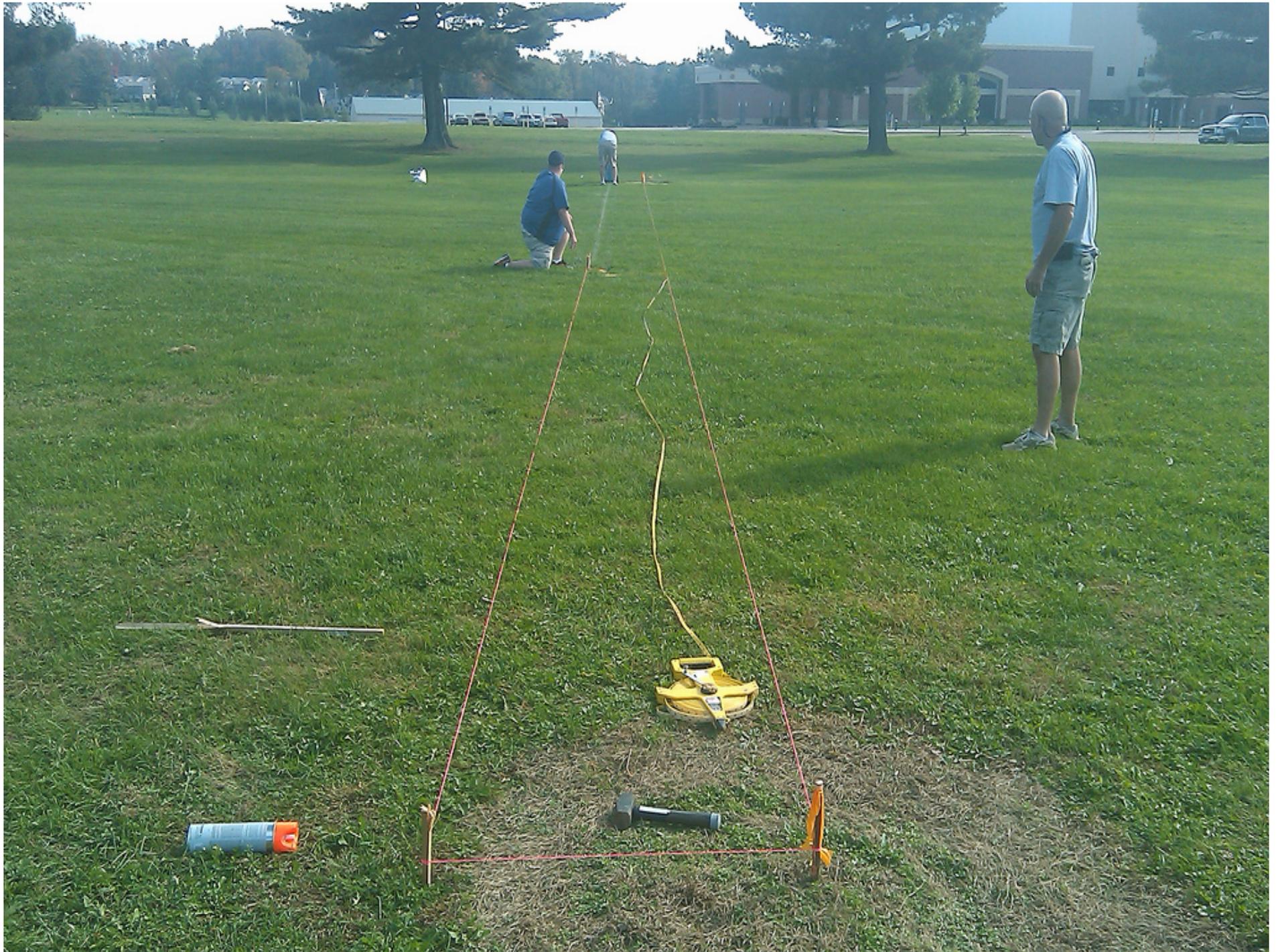
- You don't have to take a Bible with you to hit someone over the head with. Christ living in, with, and through you is your Gospel.
- People will not be able to ignore the presence of Christ in you.

Always ask 2 Questions:

**1. What is God
saying?**

**2. What am I doing
about it?**

Why not?











Community Happens!!!

- **When trust is built through care & consistency over time.**

Parent Quote

- “I can’t understand why you are doing this when you haven’t been forced into this community.”



Parent's Quote

- “I’m not the type of person that goes to church, but I’m going to this church! I can’t believe that they did this for us.”

Parent Quote

- “You know you aren’t a bad preacher. I caught your sermon online.”







- 11 Challenger Teams called Edgewood Field Home.
- That's over 200 different children with varying disabilities and their families on our campus every night of the week for 5 months!

STARK PUBLIC



ROYAL KNIGHTS

- 3 Area Special Olympics Teams called Edgewood Field Home.
- 1 of those teams ended up finishing 2nd in the State of Ohio!
- Their head coach said, “Edgewood Field is the nicest field we play on all year!”

“If you build it, they will come.”



- We started doing an annual Prom for adults. We are expecting over 500 in attendance this year!

“If you build it, they will come.”



- Our adult Sunday School Class grew from 10 to over 50 in attendance.

“If you build it, they will come.”



- We started an adult **Day Program** that has grown from 4 clients to over 30 in it's first year.
- We added an **Employment Program** to our Day Programming options.

Why not?

- I could never raise \$50,000 for a project that BIG.
- We don't have the church budget.
- I don't have the skill set to be a general contractor.
- I don't have the time.
- I'm just not ready.

So what then...

- Let your community know you care by doing something BIG... Something only God could get the credit for.
- Make sure you have a consistent presence in your community so trust can be built.
- Ask those 2 questions:
 - What is God saying?
 - What am I doing about it?