

## The Synergy of Good Faith, Good Community, Good Works, Good News

*Essential Characteristics of Great Faith Soaring Churches*

|  |                |                |            |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------|
|  | Cultural       | Transformation | Spiritual  |
|  | God's          |                | World      |
|  | GOOD WORKS     |                | GOOD NEWS  |
|  |                | 3              | 4          |
|  | 2              |                | 1          |
|  | GOOD COMMUNITY |                | GOOD FAITH |
|  | God's          |                | People     |
|  | Cultural       | Transformation | Spiritual  |

1. **GOOD FAITH** – Worship, Spiritual Formation, Bible study, Prayer and Discernment, Organized as Christ's body, Doctrinal clarity, Leadership Development, etc.  
*Goal: Transform Westwood members to full spiritual maturity*
2. **GOOD COMMUNITY (FELLOWSHIP)** Activities that enrich Westwood's fellowship and help members move from facial recognition to deeper levels of knowing.  
*Goal: Transform Westwood's relationship culture to deep knowing*
3. **GOOD WORKS** – Focusing on issues outside the church such as hunger, justice, poverty, environment, health, education.  
*Goal: Transform God's World into healthy, sustainable cultures*
4. **GOOD NEWS** – Clearly articulating the Gospel of reconciliation, inviting and welcoming people into God's family.  
*Goal: Spiritual Transform people through the Good News of Jesus*

## Defining the Four Goods

*By George Bullard*

**Good Faith** is about the spiritual quest of congregations as they worship the Triune God, and help people engage in a Christ-centered, faith-based lifestyle to run the spiritual race of continually maturing discipleship involving spiritual formation, leadership development, and missional engagement.

**Good Fellowship** is about the quest for community within congregations as they help people move from face familiarity with others to meaningful relationships and ultimately true friendships within a loving Christ-like congregational fellowship.

**Good Works** is about the Great Commandment quest of congregations as they seek to lovingly and compassionately encounter and engage with people who are literally and figuratively hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned both within the congregational context and globally.

**Good News** is about the Great Commission quest of congregations in a ministry of reconciliation as they seek to introduce people to the unconditional love of God through Jesus Christ with the guidance of God's Holy Spirit so that people might be reconciled to God.

Achieving the synergy of Good Faith, Good Fellowship, Good Works, and Good News is an intentional decision. The failure to achieve the synergy of these four can be unintentional or intentional. In every case the failure to achieve the synergy of these four means a congregation is missing essential characteristics to be vital and vibrant.

It is not necessary to have an exact balance of each of these characteristics. Some imbalance shows the unique characteristic of specific congregations. Yet, congregations must have a generous presence of each characteristic to achieve the synergy needed to soar with faith.

Each of these characteristics are good. With appropriate synergy they can result in a great congregation. Each is sufficiently good that some congregations want to focus on one or two to the exclusion of the others. Doing so may create a radical imbalance and even the absence of one or two of the essential characteristics. Such congregations are dysfunctional.