

Greeting in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

This note you are reading is attached to **a sample of the QuickCheck Card**.

The QuickCheck Card™ – A powerful yet simple tool for understanding where the people in your church are at regarding critical aspects of fighting the spiritual battle (a battle all true Christians are currently engaged in, whether they want to be or not). The goal-setting features of the QuickCheck also facilitate growth in the three main question areas that makeup what we call **The Iron Triangle of Spiritual Warfare**. Nevertheless, if a church or group tries to use the QuickCheck Card without the benefit of the approaches we have learned from the different prototype churches, their chances of success will be much lower. If you want to use the QuickCheck Card with a church or group, please avail yourself of some of the hard-learned lessons of those who have gone before you.

SPI will always work with any churches, or groups within churches, that would like our help. However, we feel the Lord has shifted our primary focus to the Grassroots Launch of SPI, and The 5Y80™ Objective (information regarding the 5Y80 Objective is included in your packet). Churches by definition are not typically able to move very quickly. In light of the dire state of our nation, we are convinced that the grassroots launch approach holds the greatest hope for large scale and rapid expansion. Furthermore, we believe that the 5Y80 Objective is a realistic goal for true Christians to work toward, especially since the three main questions don't require action steps. All the card actually does is ask people to confidentially let us know how they are doing concerning three questions that are inseparable from a sincere Biblical Christian faith, i.e. prayer, relationship with the Lord, and resisting sin.

Below is a copy of part of some correspondence I had with a Christian brother named Doug. I have included this letter so that you can see some of the potential of using multiple SPI Tools employed together. One key point (that you can partly see in the data below) we have found is that, without someone being in a Cord there appears to be almost no progress, or much less progress, in the third question regarding resisting sin. The very gentle accountability that comes from PrayerCords or SPI Small Groups is immensely helpful in the process of growing more like Christ. Spiritual growth in this area is immensely important and very near to the heart of our Lord (1 Peter 1:16 - "Be holy, because I am holy" and James 4:8 - "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.")

The data from the Midwestern church that follows is based on QuickCheck measurements of almost everyone in the congregation. Of those filling out the QuickCheck Cards each week, 30% were in PrayerCords.

Related to this lack of laudable direction and courageous initiative is the failure of ministries to measure the outcomes that matter. Churches – and, by extension, the people associated with them – continue to evaluate the success or failure of a congregation and of individual lives according to factors that do not do justice to the life, death, resurrection and teachings of Jesus Christ. Churches measure attendance, donations, numbers of staff, numbers of programs and square footage as their primary indicators of spiritual health and growth. Jesus did not die on the cross for such incidental outcomes. Individual believers, taking their cues from their church, measure their spiritual vitality on the basis of the frequency of their church attendance, whether they donate money to the ministry, and their general sense of personal "goodness" on a day-to-day basis. Again, such measures insult Christ. The axiom "you get what you measure" is certainly true for the Christian body in the U.S. Until we start to think about, pursue, and measure genuine spiritual transformation in individual lives, we will continue to get what we've been getting, as unsatisfying as that is, for years to come. [The State of the Church Report 2005 By George Barna]

Hi Doug,

4-2-13

Sorry I haven't gotten back to you sooner. I would like to stay in touch, as well as hear about your national project. I appreciated your words of encouragement. They are always welcome in light of trying to take on such a daunting task (i.e. waking the sleeping giant!).

Doug, you might find the following data interesting. The QuickCheck Card that we use to measure churches has three primary questions on it: 1) self-rating of their prayer life, 2) self-rating of their relationship with the Lord, 3) a question about sin hindering the effectiveness of their prayers (there is a lot to be said about this, but I can't say it here). As I think I said on the phone, the three main questions on the QuickCheck Card make up what we call *The Iron Triangle of Spiritual Warfare*. The questions are very interrelated to each other, and if a person is failing in one, it often carries over to the others. All three of these questions came from the survey work. None of the three were on the first survey and they all came out of the iterative survey revisions process. The QuickCheck Card was birthed to solve other problems that came out during earlier pilots that we were running. It gleans some very salient information, but only takes 90 seconds to fill out, once someone is familiar with it. If you want to get the benefits of regular measurement, you cannot ask too many questions. These three are considered core.

The following numbers come from a church of 100 to 150 located in the Midwest. The SPI work done at this church obtained the benefit of the research and pilots that went on before working with them. It will serve as the basic model for the next pilot, but even with a model it is a lot of work to launch a legitimate pilot (since we are actually trying to change the culture of a voluntary organization, i.e. a church, and we are trying to demonstrate if we are failing or succeeding. The Silver Bullets Prayer Teams, which we have not talked about, come into play too). If the next pilot also delivers strong results, the pilot following it may not have as many changes as were made in between previous pilots. I think I may have said this before too, but it is worth repeating in the event that I have not said it, *I would rather have a bad plan versus no plan*, because with a bad plan you will execute the plan, and if it doesn't work you will change it. Alternatively, doing things without a well-defined plan (or well-defined goals) can mean flying blind (or partially blind) when it comes to assessing the "real" level of results (and we are looking for effectiveness in prayer, effectiveness in spiritual warfare, and true discipleship as success markers, not attendance, buildings, and cash.)

QuickCheck Card Questions:

Q #1 Prayer Life

Those not in SPI PrayerCords / Those in PrayerCords

	<i>Answered Good or Mature</i>		Spread
First QuickCheck Use	16.3%	/ 25.0%	8.7%
Average of the Next 3 Months	43.1%	/ 51.6%	8.5%
One year later 3 Month Average	53.1%	/ 72.5%	19.4%
Another year later 3 Month Average	51.3%	/ 77.2%	25.9%

Q #2 Relationship w/ the Lord

Those not in Cords / Those in Cords

	<i>Answered Deep or Extremely Deep</i>		Spread
First QuickCheck Use	9.8%	/ 6.3%	-3.5%
Average of the Next 3 Months	18.2%	/ 29.7%	11.5%
One year later 3 Month Average	22.2%	/ 43.5%	21.3%
Another year later 3 Month Average	21.5%	/ 47.3%	25.8%

Q #3 Sin Hindering

(There are some very important things that need to be brought up concerning the use of this question. One of them being when we advise starting to actually use the question.)

Those not in Cords / Those in Cords

	<i>Gave the mature answer</i>		Spread
First QuickCheck Use	2.2%	/ 0.0%	-2.2%
Average of the Next 3 Months	9.2%	/ 16.5%	7.3%
One year later 3 Month Average	14.2%	/ 34.6%	20.4%
Another year later 3 Month Average	13.6%	/ 38.3%	24.7%

There is a SPI (Strategic Prayer Initiative) workshop DVD that I can send you a copy of if that might be helpful. Although the video was shot before the above results were available, it still has a lot of very helpful SPI information. The video [*Available to view at www.strategicpi.org or at www.PrayerCords.org*] gives more details concerning four of the main SPI tools, the PrayerCords being one of them. As you can see from the above data, (in this case) the PrayerCords over time have outperformed the non-Cords and that was done with the PrayerCords using a strategy requiring only two (2) to three (3) minutes a day of incremental effort, and a brief meeting once a month with two friends [*of their gender*]. The Cords were designed to help counter the main obstacles to prayer, and to definitively remove the greatest anti-prayer obstacle from the equation. Hope you find this interesting Doug...!

In Him and for Him,

Mike