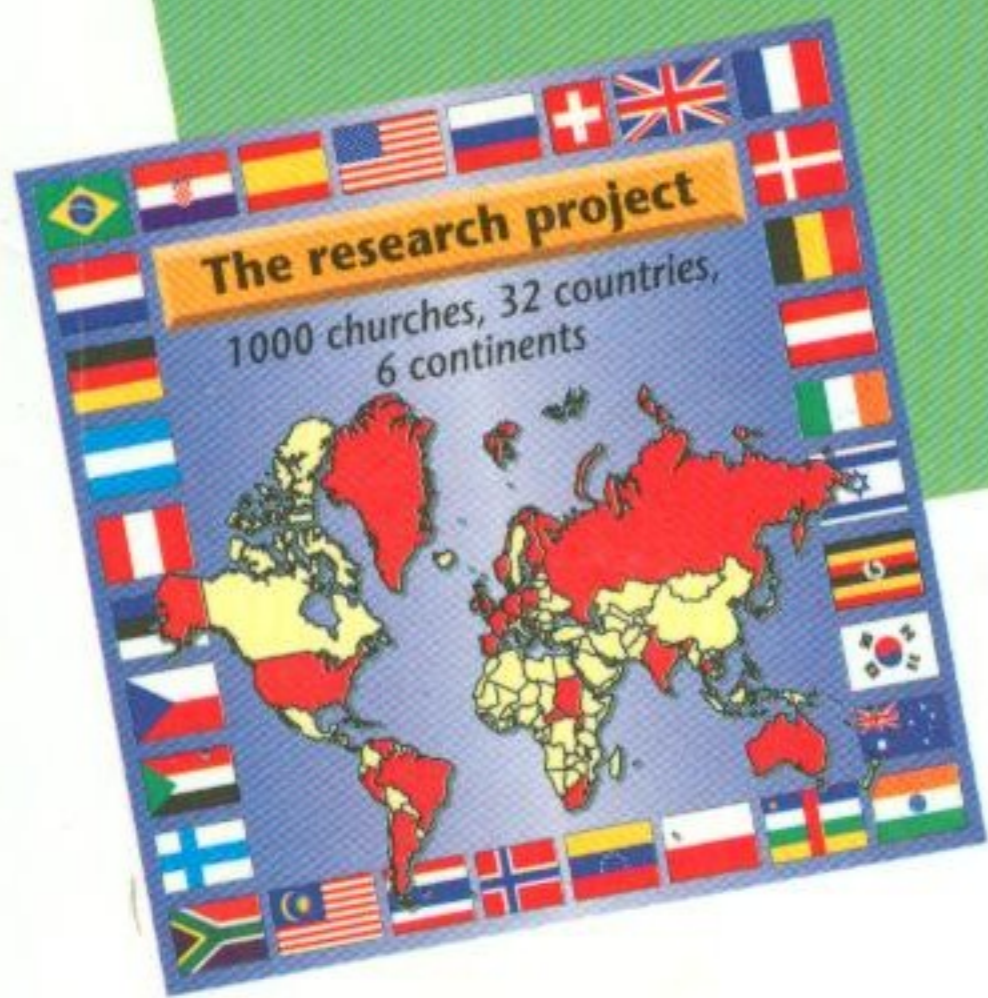
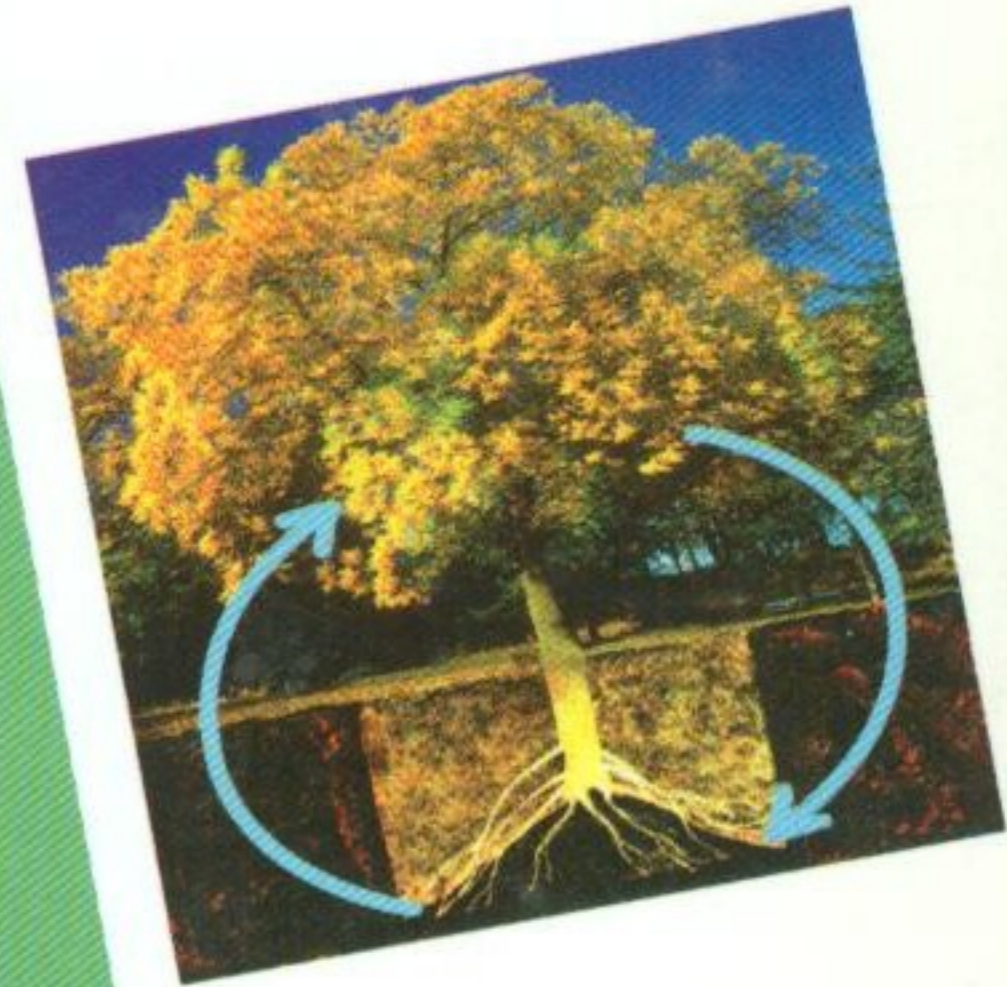




*Christian A. Schwarz*

# Natural Church Development



*A Guide to Eight  
Essential Qualities  
of Healthy Churches*

*Foreword by Robert E. Logan*



*Published by ChurchSmart Resources  
St. Charles, IL 60174*

*For a free catalog of our resources call 1-800-253-4276*

6th edition 2003

© 1996 Christian A. Schwarz

International rights: C & P Publishing, D-25924 Emmelsbüll, Germany

© U.S.A. edition:

ChurchSmart Resources, 3830 Ohio Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174

ISBN 1-889638-00-5

Translation: Lynn McAdam, Lois Wollin, Martin Wollin

Cover Design: Heidenreich, Büro für Kommunikationsdesign

Printing: M.C.E. HOREB, Viladecavalls (Barcelona), Spain – Printed in Spain

# Natural Church Development

Preface .....	3
---------------	---

## Introduction 6

Away with technocratic thinking .....	6
What is natural church development? .....	8
Discovering the "biotic potential" .....	10
The "all-by-itself" principle .....	12

## Part 1: Eight quality characteristics 15

Demythologizing church growth .....	16
The international research project .....	18
Is "growth" the appropriate criterion? .....	20
Quality characteristic 1: Empowering leadership .....	22
Quality characteristic 2: Gift-oriented ministry .....	24
Quality characteristic 3: Passionate spirituality .....	26
Quality characteristic 4: Functional structures .....	28
Quality characteristic 5: Inspiring worship service .....	30
Quality characteristic 6: Holistic small groups .....	32
Quality characteristic 7: Need-oriented evangelism .....	34
Quality characteristic 8: Loving relationships .....	36
No quality characteristic may be missing .....	38
The "65 hypothesis" .....	40
The qualitative approach .....	42
Why quantitative growth goals are inadequate .....	44
Are large churches "good" churches? .....	46

## Part 2: The minimum factor 49

Focusing our energies .....	50
The minimum barrel .....	52
Parallels from agriculture .....	54
Minimum or maximum factor? .....	56
Beware of "models"! .....	58

## Part 3: Six biotic principles 61

Technocratic or biotic? .....	62
Why technocracy doesn't work .....	64
Principle 1: Interdependence .....	66
Principle 2: Multiplication .....	68
Principle 3: Energy transformation .....	70
Principle 4: Multi-usage .....	72
Principle 5: Symbiosis .....	74
Principle 6: Functionality .....	76
Biotic = the opposite of the usual .....	78
Learning to think biotically .....	80

## Part 4: A new paradigm 83

Bipolarity in the Bible .....	84
Dangers to the right and to the left .....	86
The technocratic paradigm .....	88
The spiritualistic paradigm .....	90
The effect of wrong paradigms .....	92
Theological consequences .....	94
What does this mean practically? .....	96
Can we "make" a church grow? .....	98
Pragmatism's dead end .....	100

## Part 5: Ten action steps 103

How to develop your own program .....	104
Step 1: Build spiritual momentum .....	106
Step 2: Determine your minimum factors .....	108
Step 3: Set qualitative goals .....	110
Step 4: Identify obstacles .....	112
Step 5: Apply biotic principles .....	114
Step 6: Exercise your strengths .....	116
Step 7: Utilize NCD tools .....	118
Step 8: Monitor effectiveness .....	120
Step 9: Address your new minimum factors .....	122
Step 10: Multiply your church .....	124

Epilogue: Church growth in the power of the Holy Spirit .....	126
The next steps .....	128