

Growth Monologue

At rise: Teacher filling in for a Bible class. An indented space indicates where the actor pauses as if she is listening to the imaginary class give an answer. Actor gradually goes from cheerful to frustrated.

(enthusiastic) Ok class. Let's get started. Your regular teachers aren't here. I'm filling in until Miss Louann or somebody arrives. *(takes a deep breath)*

Today we are going to talk about church growth. How do churches grow?

Yes, little Timmy? No honey, adding rooms to the building doesn't count. The building isn't the church. The people are the church.

Ok, You with the pink shirt. No, planting apple seeds isn't it either. I know the Bible says be fruitful and multiply but it doesn't mean to grow fruit like apples.

(less hopeful the lesson is going to end up where it should) Yes, with the jeans on, what do you think would make a church grow? Potato chips and milk shakes during communion? Why would we do that? No, sitting in a pew and watching our waistlines expand isn't church growth either.

You in the back. What do you think? *(repeating what was said)* It's what the paid church staff is for. *(more adamantly)* Let's get that one right out of your head now. You need to stay after class. *(looks down as if a child is tugging on her clothes)*

Yes, yes. Quit tugging on me. What do you think will help a church grow? *(excited now)* Excellent – yes. New members! Yes! Helping people get baptized!!
(deflated) No, bringing your dolls won't count. They're not alive.
No, dogs and cats won't count either *(and strongly)* and believe me, you don't want to try baptizing a cat!

Ok. We're just going to call Miss Louann. *(pulls out cell and punches in a number then looks to heaven, prays with a desperate quality)* Please Lord, let Louann answer.....
Somebody, anybody, answer.....