

Never Start a Ministry without a Minister (including singles)

by Pastor Rick Warren

Saddleback didn't have an organized youth ministry until we had 500 in attendance. We didn't have a singles ministry until we had 1,000 people in attendance.

And I'm glad we didn't.

It's not because those ministries aren't important. They're vital! But God hadn't provided anyone to lead them. Never create a ministry position and then fill it. It's backwards. Your most critical component to a new ministry isn't the idea to start it—it's the leadership of the ministry. Every ministry rises and falls on leadership. Without the right leader, a ministry will just stumble along. It may even do more harm than good. I could tell you some horror stories about poorly-led ministries.

Be patient and trust God's timing. Don't try to outrun or outthink Him. The staff at Saddleback never starts new ministries. We may suggest an idea but we let the idea percolate until God provides the right person to lead it.

Don't push people into ministry either. It's not about you finding the right person to start your dream ministry. It's about God raising up the right person. If you push people into ministry spots, you'll be stuck with a motivation problem for the life of the ministry.