

**What does a healthy,  
multiplying church  
look like?**



# Defining Church Health

(easier said than done!)



There is no universally agreed, comprehensive, definition of church health. There are a range of definitions and criteria for evaluating church health but no dominant consensus

Dr Kieran Beville



Baptist Churches  
of NSW & ACT

# Why attempt to define “a healthy church”?

- The Gen1K Goal requires it
  - “If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time”
- A clear definition aids concentration
- A clear definition encourages co-operation
- A clear definition assists communication
- A clear definition supports planning

Work together in groups of two or three  
on a simple definition of a healthy church



# DEFINING A HEALTHY CHURCH

A healthy church is a community  
of Jesus followers with shared  
vision, thriving ministry, and  
trusted leadership

Jim Kitchens



Baptist Churches  
of NSW & ACT

# DEFINING A HEALTHY CHURCH

A healthy church is one in which every member grows, serves, builds others and reaches out

Malcom Webber



Baptist Churches  
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# DEFINING A HEALTHY CHURCH

A healthy church is a church that seeks to obey the Great Commission and the Great Commandments in its setting by being biblically based, spiritually dynamic, mission focused, servant led, and characterized by excellence in all that it does

William H Day Jr

# PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH

## Five Purposes of the Church:

- Worship
- Ministry
- Evangelism
- Fellowship
- Discipleship



# Healthy Church (Local)

A **unified** community of Jesus followers, **fruitful** in life and mission

**Unified**

**Fruitful**

# Healthy Leader

A **growing** follower of Jesus, **influencing** others towards the purposes of God

**Growing**

**Influencing**

# Healthy Disciple

Increasingly **becoming like** Jesus, **multiplying** his ways, works and words in others and the world

**Transforming**

**Multiplying**

**INTERNAL**

**EXTERNAL**



# Congregational Life Cycle

BIRTH

DEATH



Baptist Churches  
of NSW & ACT



**every living thing  
has a  
natural life cycle**



# The Cycle begins at Birth



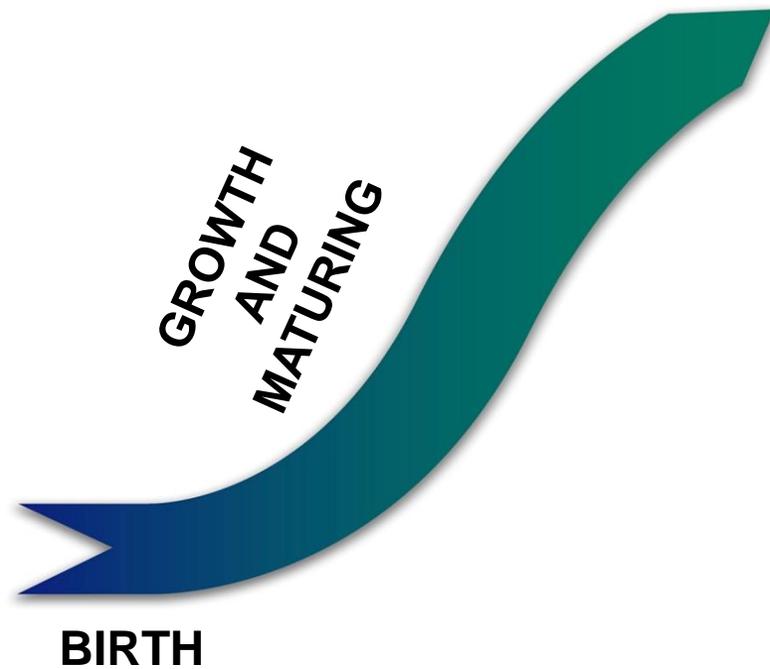
**BIRTH/EARLY GROWTH**

■ Vision and Purpose

■ Relationships



# Birth is followed by a period of Growth



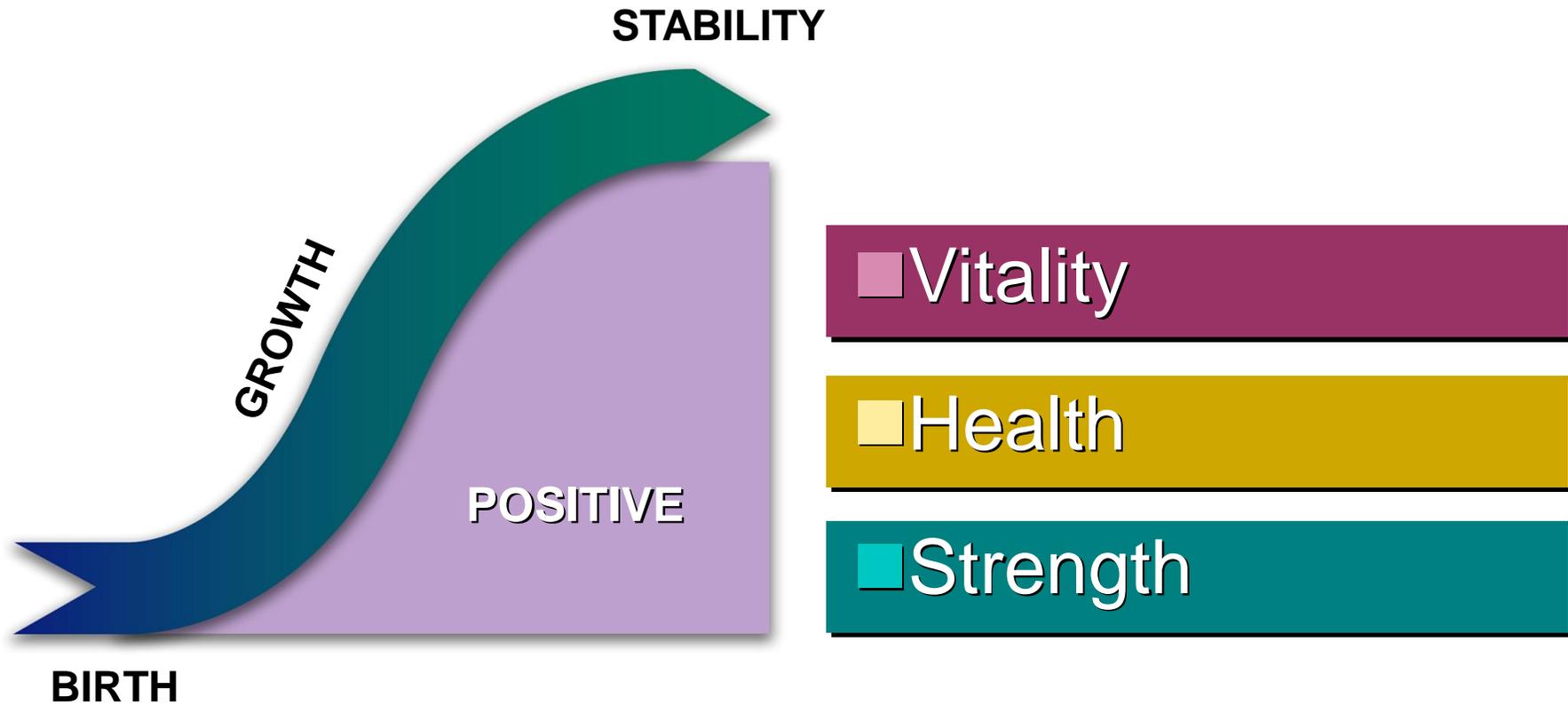
■ Energy and Excitement

■ Unexpected

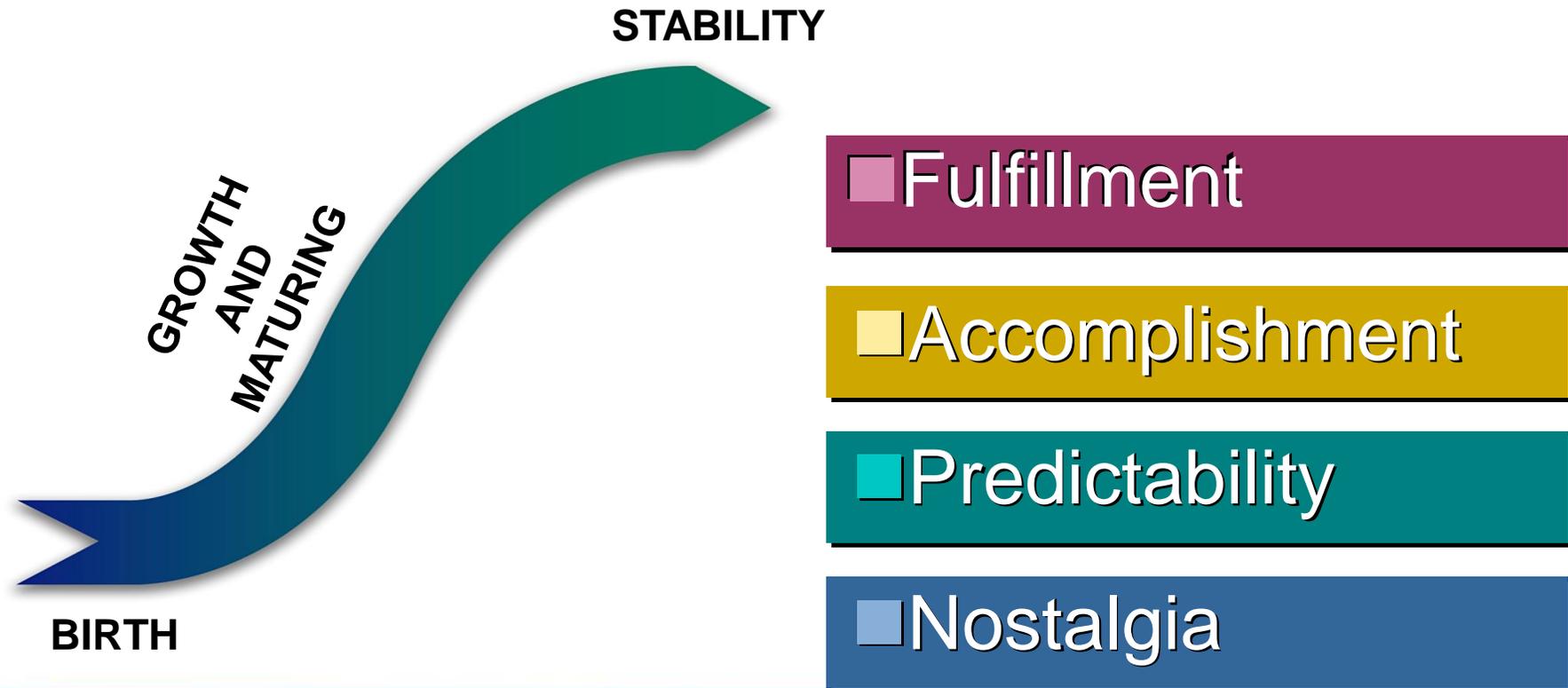
■ Progress



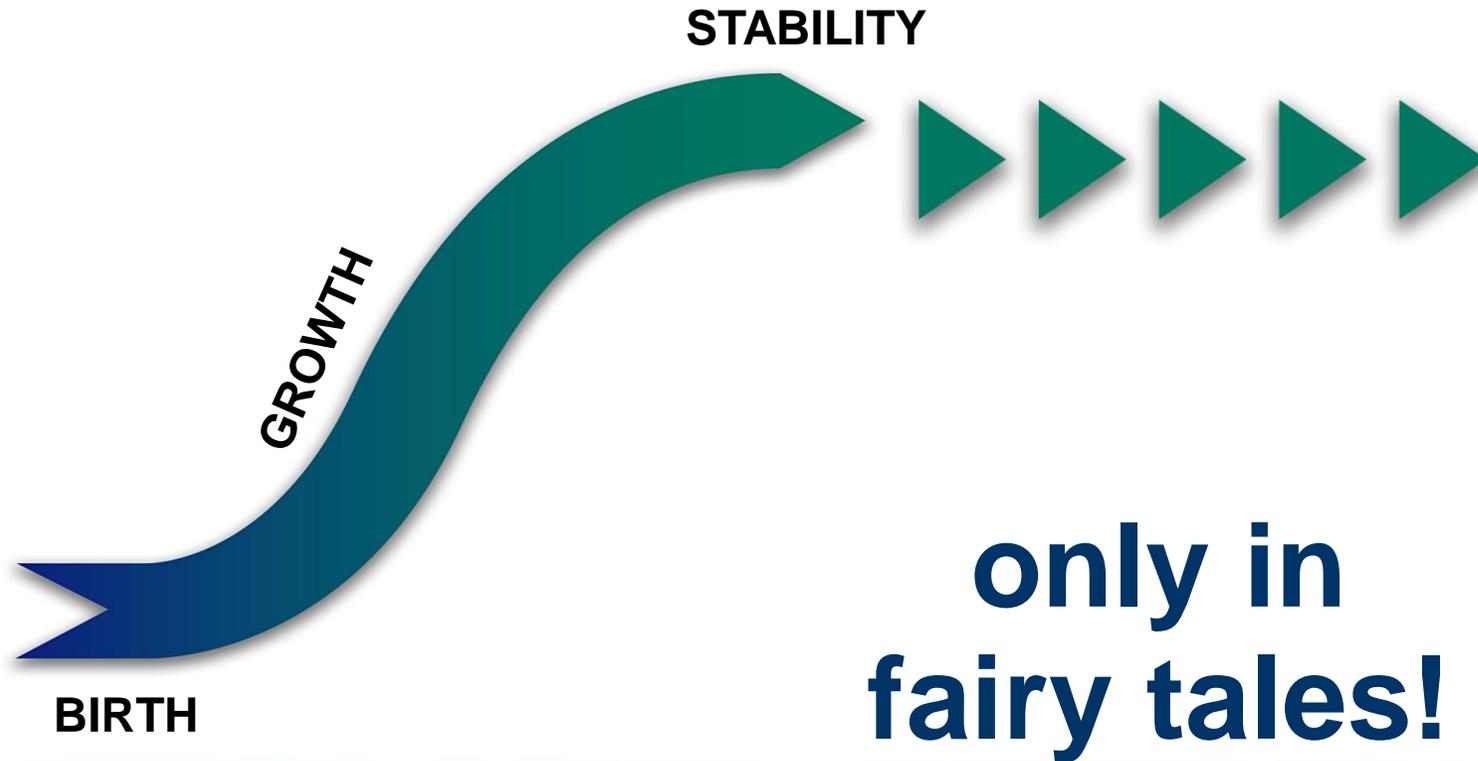
# The Growth period is a time of:



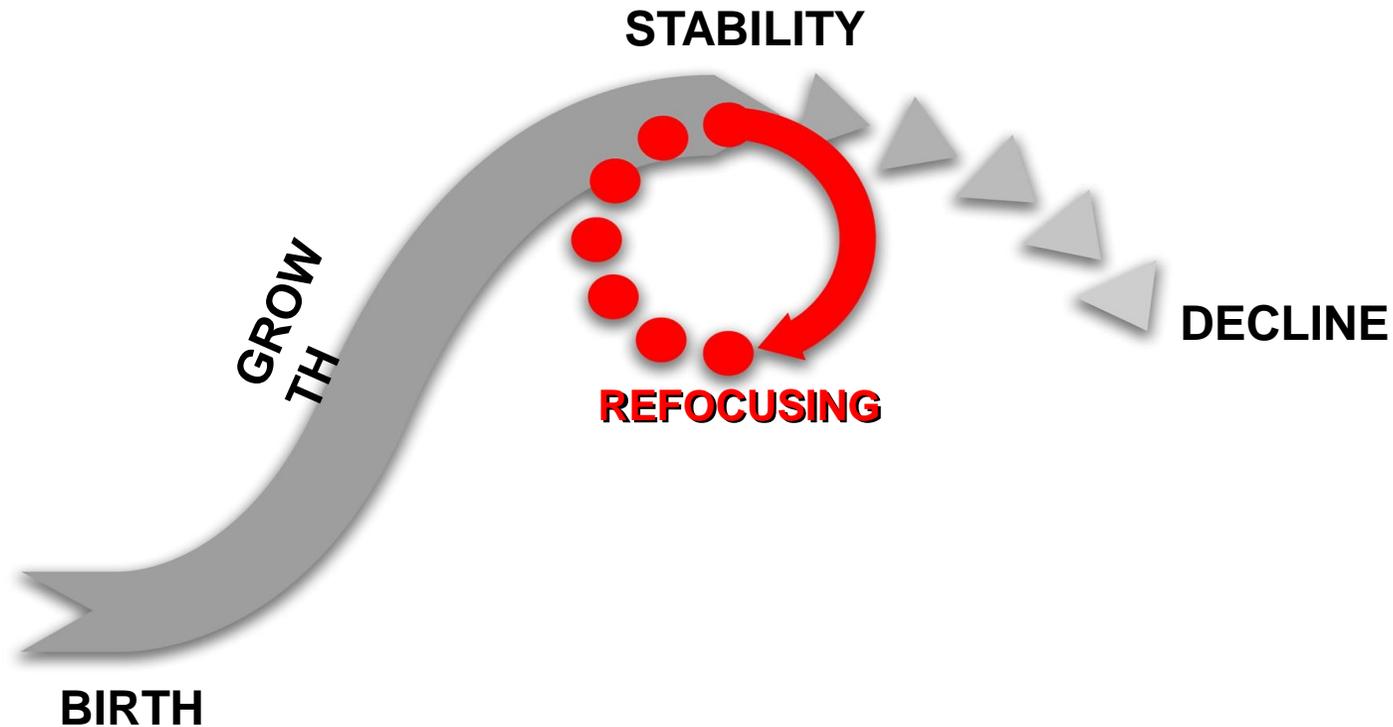
# Growth is followed by Stability



... and they lived happily ever after?



# One of two things follow Stability

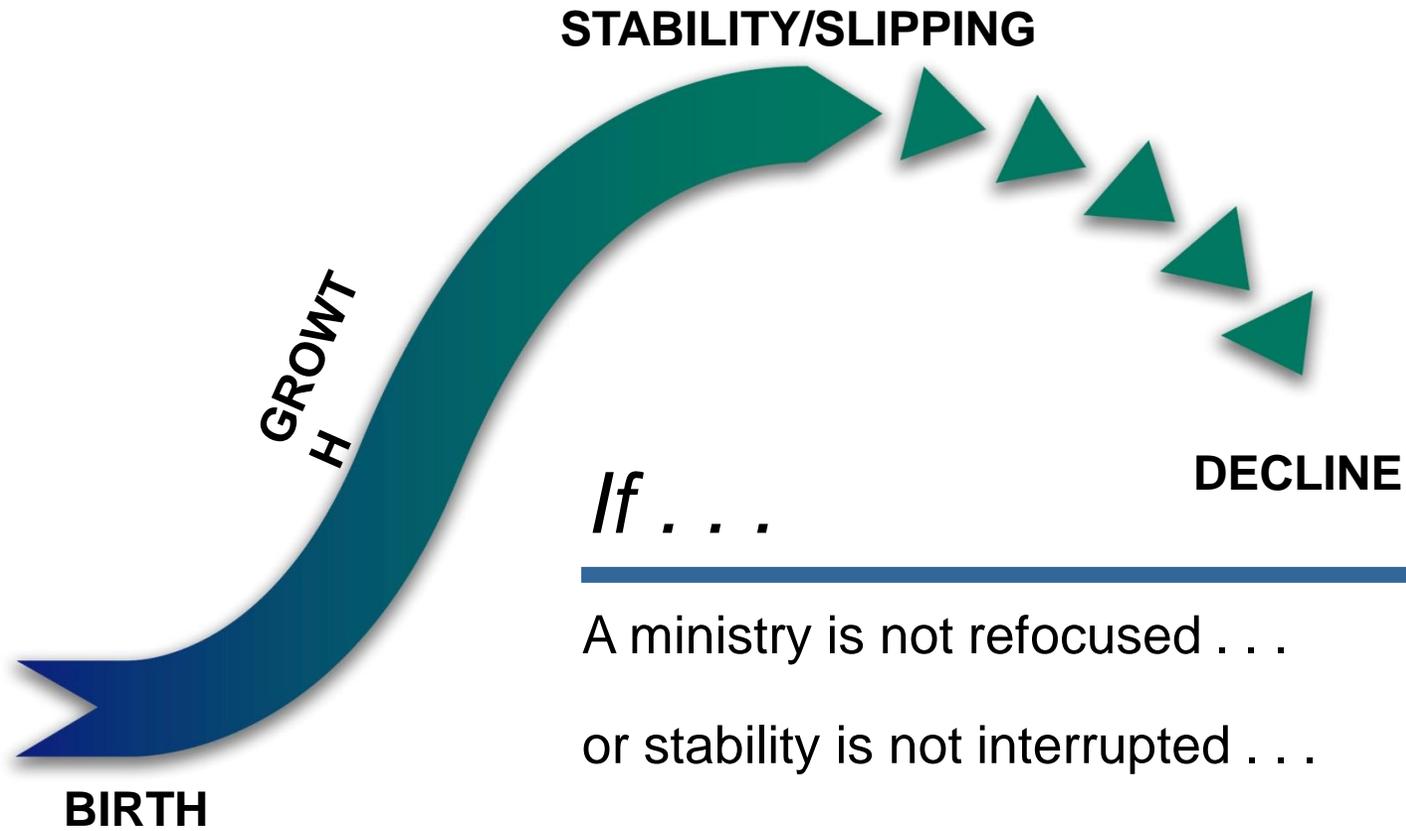


- 
- A refocusing of the Ministry
    - which leads to a new growth cycle

- Decline

# Ministry can be refocused by addressing questions like:

- What was the original vision of the ministry?
- What has been accomplished?
- What is new that was not anticipated?
- Where do we want to see this ministry in three to five years?



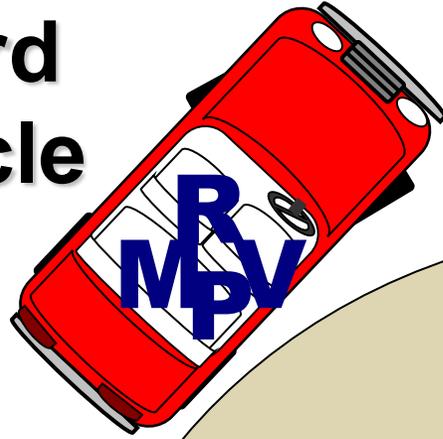
**DECLINE WILL FOLLOW.**

once a ministry is in decline  
there is still the possibility  
of new life...

...but the cost of new  
life is greater.



**Upward  
Lifecycle**



**Downward  
Lifecycle**



When Vision is driving,  
Relationships ride alongside;  
Management and Program  
are always catching up.

When Management is driving,  
Program rides alongside;  
Vision and Relationships  
are always left behind



# The Congregational Life Cycle

