


**New England  
Church  Strong**

**VITAL SIGNS**  
of a Healthy Church



**Baptist Convention of New England  
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# New England Church Strong

## Church Health Clinic

John Maxwell says, *“Everything rises and falls on leadership.”* The greatest single factor in the success or failure of the healthy church is leadership. All effective leadership begins with vision. Today’s church needs leaders to be people of vision who seek God’s will, spend time in prayer and in God’s Word. These days everyone seems to be health conscious. If we have a pain, shortness of breath, or a general change in bodily condition, we call in the doctor. Isn’t it interesting that we sometimes fail to have the same concerns about God’s work? As important as our own condition is, the spiritual condition of His church should be equally important to us. The prayer life, the outreach ministry, spiritual growth—just to mention a few of the vital signs of a healthy church—must claim our attention if we are to succeed in fulfilling God’s purpose for us.

### Instructions

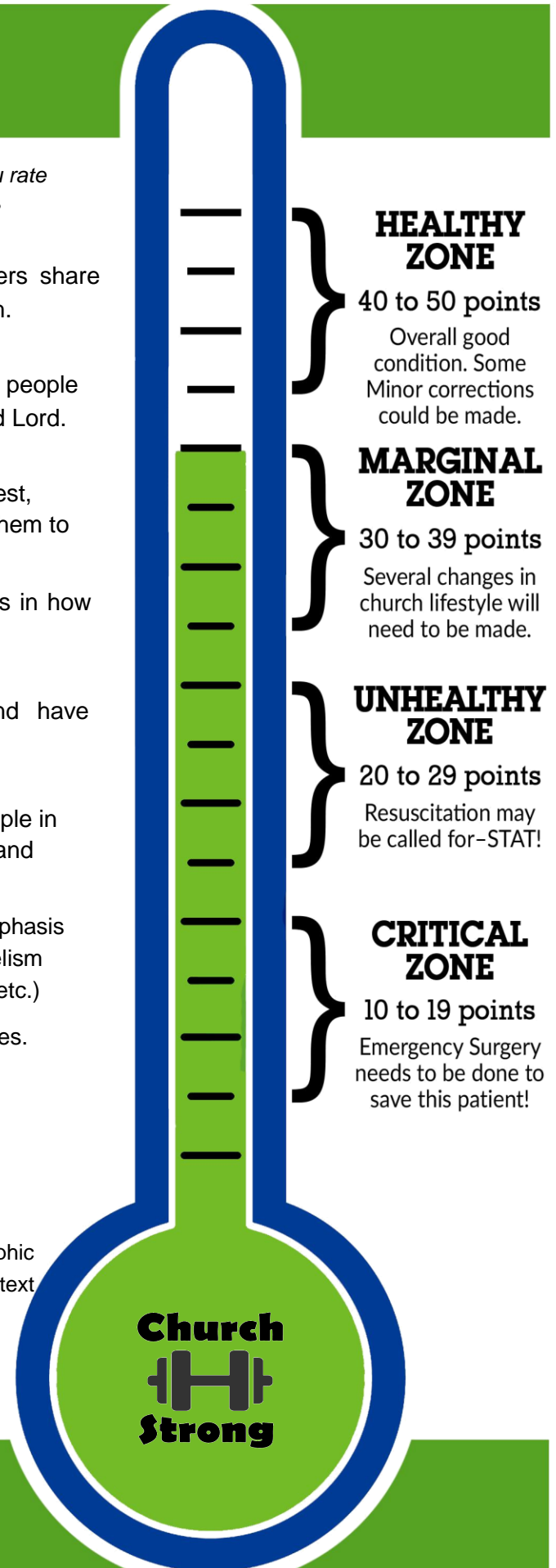
- Score each of the seven pages using a number between 1 (low) & 5 (high). This should be YOUR best understanding of how your church is doing.
- All 10 statements must be scored. If you don’t know one, then score a 3.
- Total each page and record your score. Check thermometer on right.
- Transfer the total score from each page to the appropriate block on the Church Health Inventory (CHI). Make sure each score matches the appropriate block.
- Total the “CHI” page and divide by 7 for the Overall Health Score.
- Go back to each page and circle the 2 statements that you scored lowest on each page. If more than 2 have the same score, make your best choice.
- Transfer those numbers to the appropriate blanks on the “CHI”.

When this is done, relax and have some refreshments while we wait for everyone to finish. Please don’t talk at the table while others are finishing.

# Evangelism Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

- 1. There is evidence that a majority of members share their faith with others and invite them to church.
- 2. Church emphasizes prayer for spiritually lost people to come to know Jesus as personal Savior and Lord.
- 3. Church has a system for greeting first time guest, receiving information from them, and helping them to feel welcome.
- 4. Church is organized and is training individuals in how to share their faith with others.
- 5. Church has a plan to identify guests and have members make a follow-up contact with them.
- 6. Members are often encouraged to identify people in their social network and to build relationships and share Christ with them.
- 7. Church plans and conducts regular outreach emphasis (e.g. special evangelistic events, servant evangelism projects, block parties, VBS, musical programs, etc.)
- 8. Church keeps and utilizes up-to-date prospect files.
- 9. Baptism is celebrated at least quarterly.
- 10. Church intentionally stays aware of the demographic make-up and needs within their community context and plans evangelistic strategies accordingly.
- TOTAL EVANGELISM CHECKUP COUNT



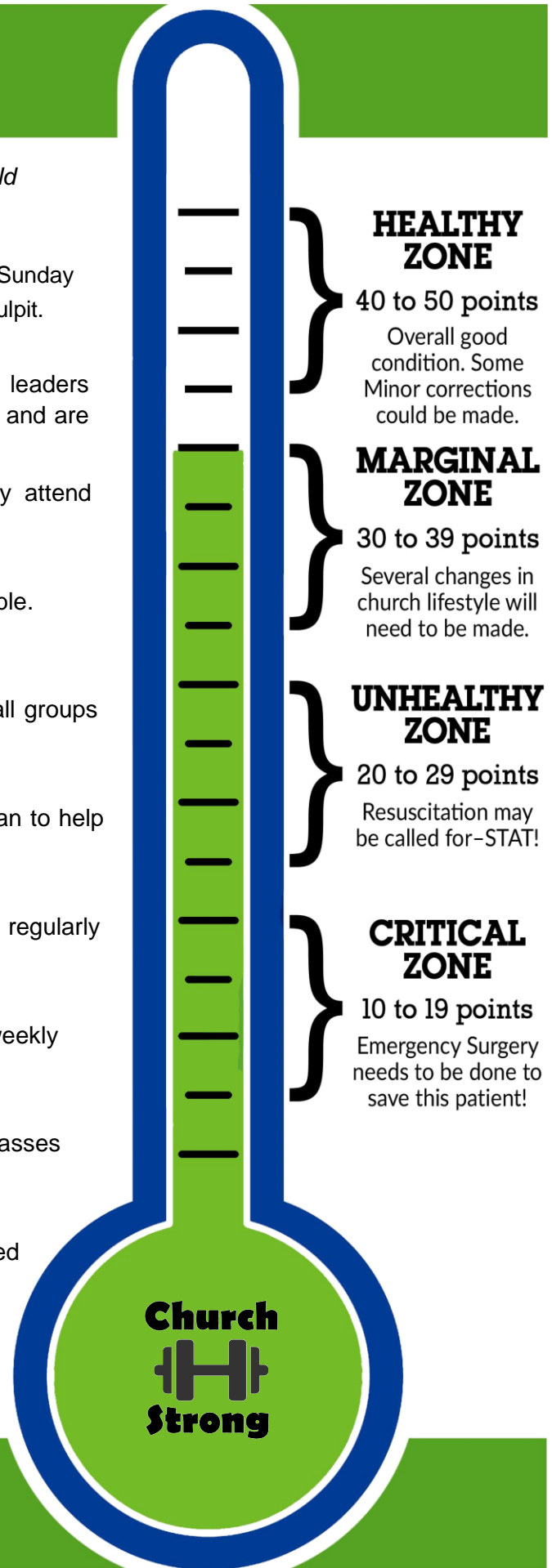
When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Evangelism Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Evangelism Health fall on the health thermometer?

# Discipleship Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in Bible study and discipleship?

- 1. Pastor regularly emphasizes the importance of Sunday School/small groups and Discipleship from the pulpit.
- 2. Sunday School/small group and Discipleship leaders are enlisted early based on their spiritual gifts and are given appropriate training.
- 3. Sunday School/small group leaders regularly attend planned workers meeting.
- 4. A new members class or group is made available.
- 5. There is an expectation that members of small groups are active in ministry/missions.
- 6. Church leadership has a clear Discipleship plan to help all believers mature in Christ.
- 7. Sunday School classes enroll new members regularly and are recognized for doing so.
- 8. Church encourages families to have a weekly "Family Bible Study" time together.
- 9. Church regularly starts new Sunday School classes or small groups.
- 10. Church discipleship process is equally focused on learning and doing.

TOTAL SUNDAY SCHOOL/DISCIPLESHIP CHECKUP COUNT



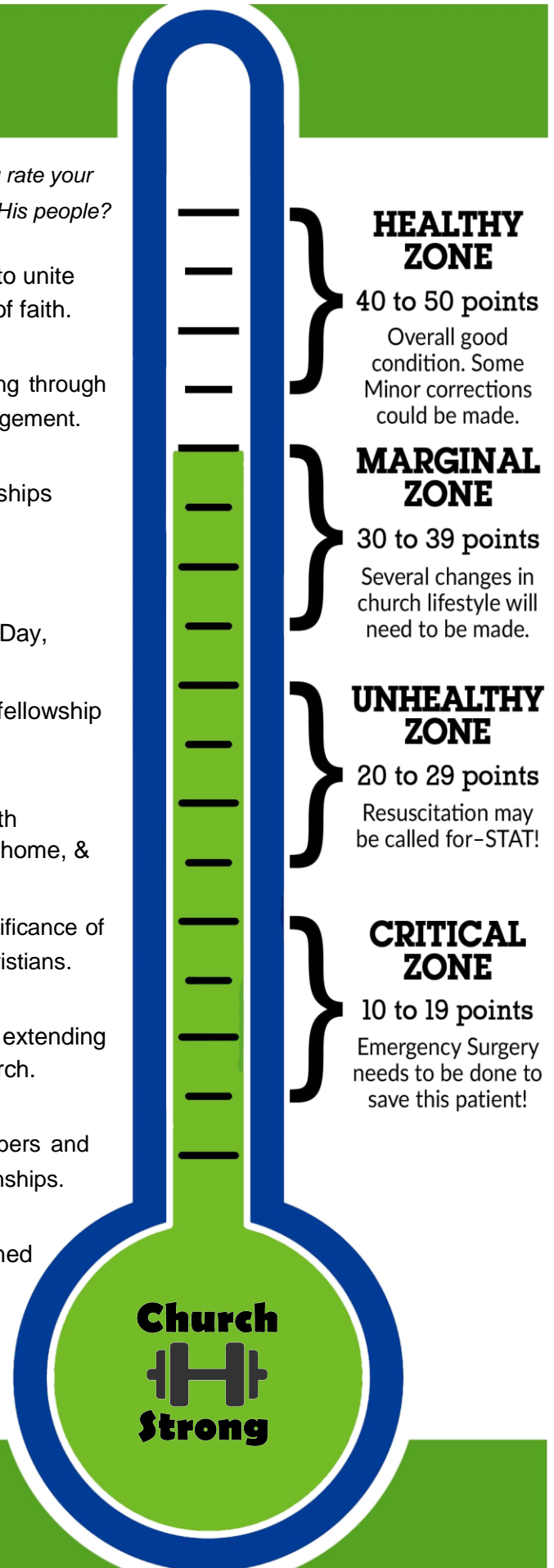
When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Sunday School/Discipleship Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Sunday School/Discipleship Health fall on the health thermometer?

# Fellowship Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in establishing and building relationships with God and His people?

- 1. Church teaches on and encourages believers to unite with the church through baptism or statement of faith.
- 2. Church has created an environment of belonging through grace, acceptance, support, and mutual encouragement.
- 3. Church provides opportunities to build relationships through fellowship activities beyond Sunday.
- 4. Church provides fellowship through Special Emphases such as Senior Adult Day, Student Day, etc., and/or holidays.
- 5. Church provides opportunities to build fellowship through praying and serving together.
- 6. Church has process for maintaining contact with absentee attenders, those who are away from home, & those in leadership in other age-groups.
- 7. There are regular sermons focusing on the significance of fellowship and living in community with other Christians.
- 8. Church has developed strategies for extending fellowship to those who are not part of the church.
- 9. Church is careful not to overburden staff members and volunteers so that they have time to build relationships.
- 10. Church leaders and members have been trained to handle conflicts constructively.

TOTAL FELLOWSHIP CHECKUP COUNT



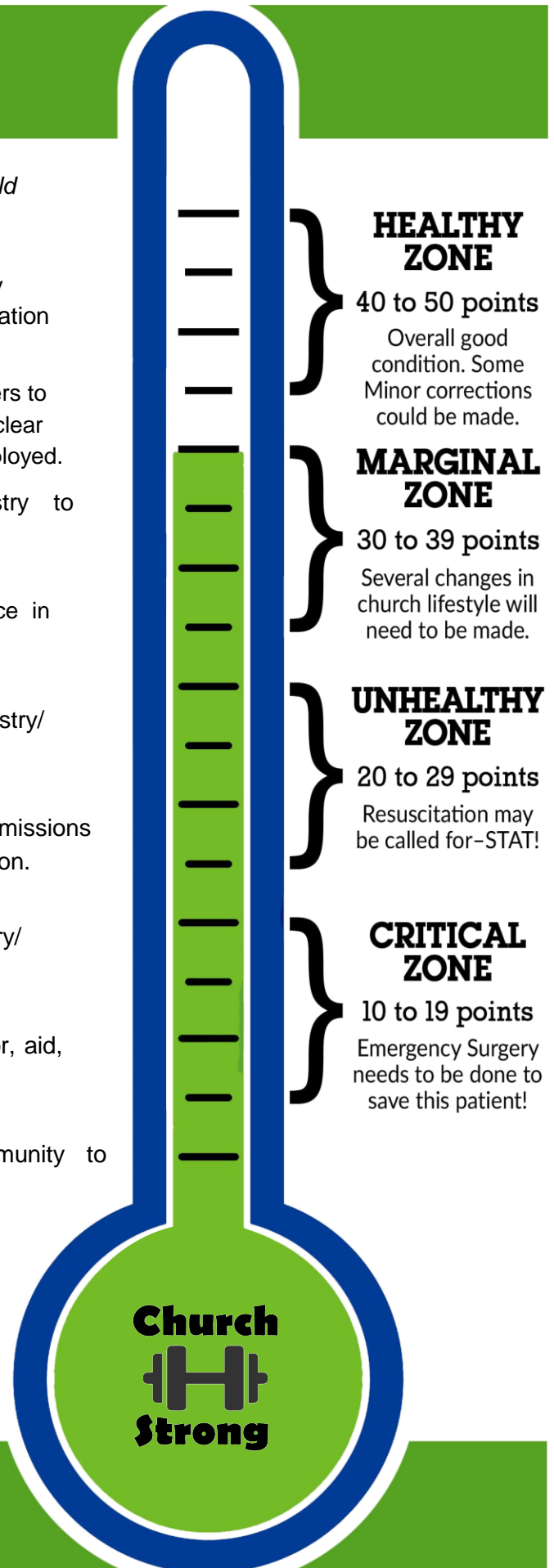
When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Fellowship Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Fellowship Health fall on the health thermometer?

# Mission/Ministry Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in ministry/missions?

- 1. Church has a plan to identify and appropriately meet the benevolent needs within the congregation and community.
- 2. Church provides opportunities for church members to discover their gifts, talents and strengths; and a clear pathway to find ministries where they can be deployed.
- 3. Church is organized for effective ministry to members, prospects, and family members.
- 4. Church equips people for a lifetime of service in ministry/missions.
- 5. Church involves individuals and groups in ministry/missions through ministry projects, special assignments, and mission opportunities.
- 6. Church provides church wide ministry/missions projects for individuals and/or family participation.
- 7. Church demonstrates a climate open to ministry/missions in the local community and area.
- 8. Church demonstrates an openness to sponsor, aid, or participate in a new church start.
- 9. Church surveys the needs of the community to determine future ministry goals.
- 10. Church body is regularly involved in missions education for all age groups.

TOTAL MISSION/MINISTRY  
CHECKUP COUNT



When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Mission/Ministry Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Mission/Ministry Health fall on the health thermometer?

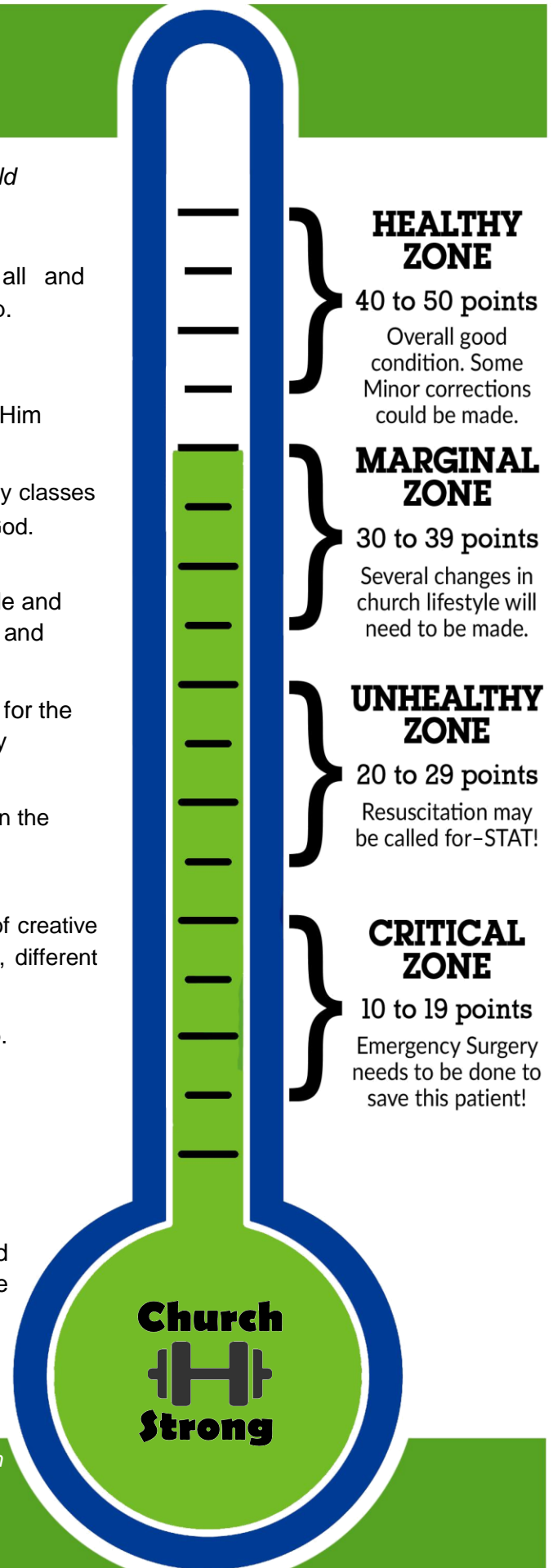


# Worship Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in worship?

- 1. Church acknowledges Jesus as Lord of all and responds by expressing love for him in worship.
- 2. Church encourages/resources members to experience God's power/presence by seeking Him personally through daily prayers and devotion.
- 3. Teachers establish an environment in Bible study classes that lead people to encounter the life-changing God.
- 4. Church has examined how well its worship style and time(s) fits its members/prospective members, and has made changes where necessary.
- 5. Leaders are prepared and opportunity is given for the spiritually lost to respond to the gospel at every worship service.
- 6. Church regularly involves volunteers of all ages in the worship service.
- 7. Worship leaders plan ahead and use a variety of creative elements in worship services such as readings, different styles of music, drama, video, sermons, etc.
- 8. Church receives the offering as an act of worship.
- 9. The Word of God is proclaimed faithfully and persuasively.
- 10. Church services are designed to lead individuals to actively participate in corporate expressions of worship.

TOTAL WORSHIP CHECKUP COUNT



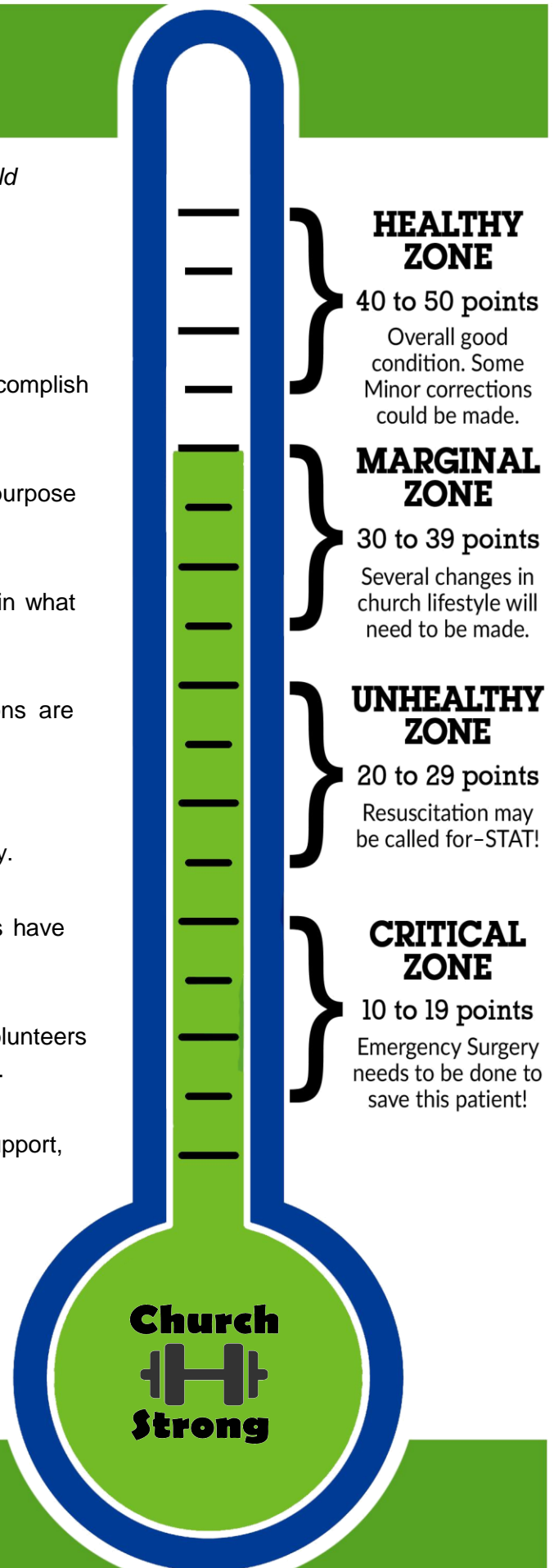
When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Worship Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Worship Health fall on the health thermometer?

# Leadership Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church leadership?

- 1. Church has a written mission statement that is communicated well in a variety of ways.
- 2. Church understands its purpose, how to accomplish the mission, and what the results will be.
- 3. The pastor often communicates the overall purpose of the church and his vision for fulfilling it.
- 4. Most church members know and could explain what is expected of them as a member.
- 5. It is clear how, when and by whom decisions are made in the church.
- 6. Leaders are effectively enlisted, equipped and empowered to oversee their area of responsibility.
- 7. The church seeks to make sure its ministries have the resources necessary to fulfill its objectives.
- 8. Church leaders demonstrate love to volunteers through public and private acts of appreciation.
- 9. The key leaders of our church support, communicate, and actively fulfill the vision.
- 10. There is a clear and intentional pathway to develop new leaders within the church.

TOTAL LEADERSHIP CHECKUP COUNT



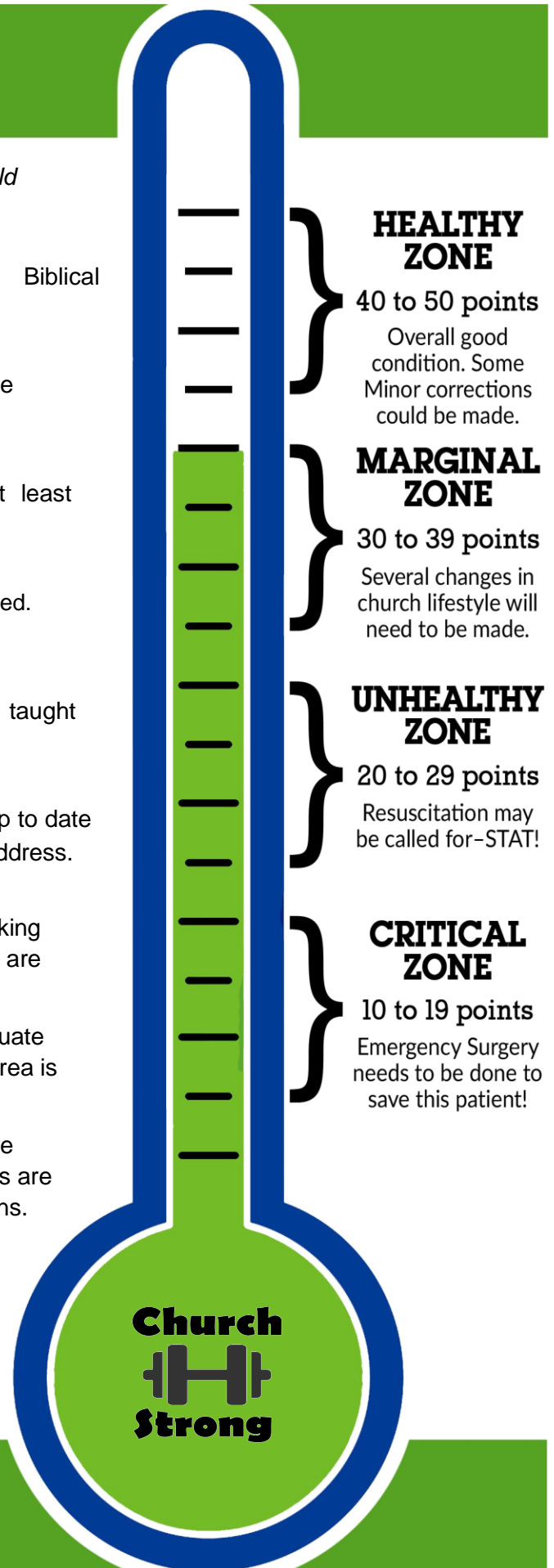
When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Leadership Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Leadership Health fall on the health thermometer?



# Stewardship Checkup

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low; 5 being high), how would you rate your church in stewardship?

- 1. Pastor and church leaders exemplify Biblical stewardship in personal giving and testimony.
- 2. Church encourages missions giving through the Cooperative Program, the Association and SBC/BCNE special missions offerings.
- 3. Church has stewardship/giving emphasis at least once a year.
- 4. Christian financial management classes are offered.
- 5. Biblical giving and the stewardship of life are taught as the norm for believers.
- 6. Website is attractive, functional, informative, up to date and free of errors, with clear service times & address.
- 7. Exterior appearance is inviting; adequate parking is provided for handicap and guests; grounds are well lighted and well-kept and maintained.
- 8. Interior appearance is clean and inviting, adequate and clean restrooms, children and preschool area is child-friendly, safe, and clean.
- 9. Signage is visible from the street, entrances are properly marked, service times and office hours are posted, and interior signage give clear directions.
- 10. Church has made their facility handicap accessible.
- TOTAL STEWARDSHIP CHECKUP COUNT



When you have finished rating each statement, add the column together to discover your diagnosis of your church's Stewardship Health. Notice the thermometer to the right. Where does your church's Stewardship Health fall on the health thermometer?

# Church Health Inventory

# CHI

In the spaces below, write the average score of all your church leadership team for each purpose. Subtotal the scores, then divide by seven to arrive at your total score. Use the thermometer to the right to see the overall health of your church. Spend time discussing each purpose and specific needs that show up on the checkup sheets. Then write the two top priorities you would like to work on in the coming months.

EVANGELISM  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY SCHOOL/DISCIPLESHIP  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

FELLOWSHIP  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

MINISTRY/MISSIONS  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

WORSHIP  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

LEADERSHIP  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

STEWARDSHIP  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

← Subtotal divided by 7 =  
OVERALL HEALTH SCORE →



## HEALTHY ZONE

40 to 50 points  
Overall good condition. Some Minor corrections could be made.

## MARGINAL ZONE

30 to 39 points  
Several changes in church lifestyle will need to be made.

## UNHEALTHY ZONE

20 to 29 points  
Resuscitation may be called for-STAT!

## CRITICAL ZONE

10 to 19 points  
Emergency Surgery needs to be done to save this patient!

**Church  
Strong**

Church:

Association: