

LITTLE MEGACHURCH

By John Cospers

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Pastor Tom sits at his desk.

TOM

My name is Pastor Tom. I left a successful law firm six months ago to form a church.

TOM

I think the neatest thing about modern churches is the opportunity for the non-seminary man to hit it big.

TOM

You don't need a Bible school degree. You don't need seminary. You need a heart for God, a heart for people, and a little megachurch thinking.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

The lights are low, and Pastor Mike, the worship leader, stands up in front of a group holding a microphone. At the back of the room, a teen named Johnny holds a bright flashlight on Pastor Mike.

MIKE

Gooooood morning, church! Time to rock it for the big J.C. I'm your worship leader Pastor Mike. Stand and sing along with me. The words will be on the screen.

Mike hits play on a karaoke machine. Cheesy music plays, and the lyrics to a hymn appear on a TV screen, karaoke style.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Stacy, a teenager, talks to the camera.

STACY

I used to hate going to church. I mean it was so stuffy and boring every week with the hymnals and those old people. But now... well, it's kinda

cheeseball, but at least my
friends don't see where I go.

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

TOM

A lot of people said to me, Tom,
start small. Don't try to be the
big guy right away. But coming
from a business background I
know how foolish that thinking
is. You wanna grow, you plan to
grow.

INT. KITCHEN

Mary, Tom's wife, pours cups of coffee.

TOM (VOICE OVER)

First thing we did is offer a
coffee bar. That's one of the
really nice innovations that
megachurches brought us, coffee
in church.

Stacy takes a cup from Mary.

STACY

I said I wanted a latte!

Mary sprays some whipped cream in the cup, then puts a stirrer in
the cup.

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

TOM

Modern music. Also very
important to the big church.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Pastor Mike sits beside the karaoke machine.

MIKE

I'm Pastor Mike, and this is my
worship team. It's all right
here. At least until we get some
guitar players and drummers to
join the church. I mean, my
son's playing drums, but he's

only three. We've got the hip
music right here, and back
there, Johnny runs the lights.

Johnny clicks the flashlight on and off.

MIKE

Nice work today, Johnny! He just
got back from a lighting seminar
in Nashville.

JOHNNY

I met Toby Mac.

MIKE

Sure, whoever that is.

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

TOM

Television, another important
component for the large church.
We haven't found a TV station to
carry us, yet, but as you can
see...

Tom gestures to a shelf covered in video tapes.

TOM

We're more than ready for
syndication.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Rick stands with his wife Deb.

RICK

We moved here from California
two months ago.

DEB

I miss California.

RICK

We were members at Saddleback.

DEB
I miss Saddleback.

RICK
Coming to a small town, we knew
we'd lose a lot when it comes to
our church experience.

DEB
A whole lot.

RICK
But finding this church has
really helped us make the
transition. Right, hun?

DEB
Well... the sermons are okay.

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY
Pastor Tom is hunched over his laptop, reading emails.

TOM
I spend hours every week combing
the net, researching sermons,
finding just the right one for
our people. Ah, here we go. "All
I Need to Know, I Learned from
Noah's Ark." My aunt always
forwards me the best stuff!

EXT. HOUSE - DAY
Kelly talks to the camera.

KELLY
One thing I would change? The
pastor, not easy to talk to. I
mean he's friendly and all, but
any time I've tried to meet with
him...

INT. KITCHEN - DAY
Pastor Tom shakes hands with folks as they leave. His escort Roger
stands beside him, shaking hands after him and guiding people out
of the kitchen. Kelly comes up to Pastor Tom.

KELLY

Pastor Tom, great sermon.

TOM

Thank you.

KELLY

I was wondering, I've been having some relationship concerns, and if you don't mind my asking, I was hoping I could set up an appointment--

Tom gives a look to Roger, who takes Kelly by the arm.

ROGER

Now, now, Pastor's a little busy with the whole flock today.

KELLY

But I need to talk--

ROGER

And you will. Just call this week and make an appointment with his secretary.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Kelly has her cell phone out on speakerphone.

CHURCH VOICE MAIL

Thank you for calling the Little Megachurch. For English press one. Para-

Kelly presses one.

CHURCH VOICE MAIL

For the children's ministry, press one. For youth, press two. For Pastor Mike and the worship team, press three. For Pastor Tom's secretary, press four.

Kelly presses four.

CHURCH VOICE MAIL

We're sorry, no one can take your call. Please leave a message.

Kelly turns off the phone.

KELLY

I'm not sure he has a secretary yet.

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

TOM

It's unfortunate, we have the same problems as a big church, but we're not trying to keep people at bay. Just setting the trend so there's no hard feelings in the future when I'm really unavailable.

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Pastor Tom pulls out some blueprints.

TOM

As you can see, our building projects over the next ten years are already laid out. We'll start with the sanctuary. No crosses, no stained glass. Then we'll add classrooms. The gymnasium and coffee bar. Then comes the Big auditorium, then later, the Supra-Auditorium. We'll run out of parking space by then, but that's why we're also planning a parking garage.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Pastor Mike plays with the karaoke machine.

MIKE

It's all going to be worth it. One day, we'll look back with fondness on this old house and remember the simple times when, as the pastor says...

INT. BASEMENT - DAY
Pastor Tom is up preaching.

TOM

We gather together, we lift our
voices to God, and ask the
question every small church
should: What Would Willow Creek
do?

CONGREGATION

(with little enthusiasm)

Amen.