

CHAPTER 1
THE PROBLEM, PURPOSE AND GOALS, AND DESIGN

The Problem

In the fall of 1997, the membership of Central Baptist Church of Bearden in Knoxville, Tennessee, was asked to complete a twenty-one page survey that would help determine God's will for Central Baptist Church as we move into the Twenty-First Century ... and beyond. The survey was prepared and administered by a Vision 21 Team through the Communications Committee. The lengthy questionnaire was given to each of the nearly 4,000 members of the church with the request that each person spend time in prayer and ask God to bless this effort to seek his will for the future of his church.

Worship was the first area examined and included twenty-eight questions relating to music, atmosphere, worship (personal and corporate), drama, ordinances, sermons and children's worship. Question 19 asked for a "yes" or "no" response to this statement: "I would be interested in learning more about personal worship." As with all questions regarding worship, this particular question was included by the Worship Committee of the Vision 21 Team. When the final survey results were published on May 1, 1998, the response to Question 19 became the determining factor in choosing a subject for this dissertation.