

Family Focus

VISIONING MESSAGES

Family, I pray this blessed Sunday finds you well. This morning after I offer a brief message, our Elders will be sharing with you their plan for our growth as a church. One of the things we have often said and strongly believe is that if we are to grow spiritually we are going to have to intend to do it. If we are going to expand the kingdom of God by bringing more souls to Christ, we are going to have to intend to do it. And intentionality suggests we not leave anything up to chance but come up with plans to meet decided goals. We need to all listen attentively to our Elders' goals and plans. We need to pray for these goals and plans. We must also make a determination where we fit into these plans and what we can offer to help reach the goals.

If there was ever a need for healthy and active churches to shine, it is now. We all need a place of rest. We all need a place to be strengthened and energized. We all need a place where we have an opportunity to serve others. But most importantly we all need a place where we can commit our lives to God and His will; a place that is Biblically sound, Christ centered, and kingdom focused. The Elders as the shepherds of this church want that for us and for those in need.

But it will take all of us committing ourselves to living out the expectations Christ has for us. He wants us to learn of Him and to learn His ways. Christ wants us to order our steps by scripture and order our lives by God's love. It will take all of us listening to our Shepherd's plans and talking to them about what we like and don't like about the plan. It will take us working together to follow where they lead us.

We have been given a vision of "growing people to the glory of God". It is our Elders responsibility to follow the Chief Shepherd Jesus Christ and guide and encourage us to do the same so that we can make that vision a reality. I look forward to working with you all toward those ends. Because if we do, we will hear the blessed words of our God: "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

In Him,



Eric

Why Pray?

Why pray, if God loves us and knows all we need before we pray? 'What if he knows prayer to be the thing we need first and most? What if the main object in God's idea of prayer be the supplying of our great, our endless need, the need of himself? What if the good of all our smaller and lower needs lies in this, that they help drive us to God? Communion with God is the one need of the soul beyond all other needs; prayer is the beginning of that communion.

~ George MacDonald, *Liberating Ministry From The Success Syndrome*, K Hughes, Tyndale, 1988, p. 72

Shepherds (*denotes quarterly chairman):
Glenn Berkey, Glen Godsey, Charles Martin, Britt Newby,
Don Osburn, James Treece, *Dee Vanderburg