



The Newsletter of Santee Circle Community Church

January 31, 2011
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From the Desk of Pastor Chris

The Body of Christ...

"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them".
(Romans 12:4-6)

The church truly is a body. Not just in the fact that we are to be the hands and feet of Christ, but also in how we must interact with one another. We need one another. We cannot make it alone.

This principle of working together applies to the Christian life in so many different ways. We as elders are learning first hand that it also applies to the church in terms of getting things done. We are excited about grabbing hold of the vision that God has given us to transition Santee Circle Community Church into a church that makes disciples who worship One God by working as One Body in order to win One More to the Kingdom of Christ. However, we cannot even start moving toward the fulfilling of this vision without the efforts of the body working together. We simply cannot do it alone; nor has God intended us to. That is why He has formed us together from so many varying characters, personalities and gift sets. As this passage of Scripture says, we must "use them" (the gift sets of all) in the accomplishing of His will.

For that reason, the elders have sought out an Implementation Team to help us with this transition period in the life of our church. While, as pastor and elders, we are able to sense and discern God's vision of where He desires our church to be in the future, I must admit that we are not capable of discerning every need that must be met in order to see us get to that destination God has placed in our hearts. Thankfully, God has already gifted others with the foresight to determine those needs and help meet those needs in order to move us along in being what God intends.

It is also evident that proper communication is vital for any organization to accomplish great things. We desire to do great things that will bring glory and honor to the great God that we serve. He deserves nothing less. Therefore, it is our hope and prayer that the Implementation Team will help improve our communication with the body as we journey with God toward fulfilling this One God, One Body, One More vision.

There is also a requirement of all "body parts" to be active in reaching this goal. Yes, that means you, too. Each of us will be expected to allow God to use our unique gift sets to fulfill this vision. The elders and the Implementation Team will be looking at the gift sets of the various parts of our body and ask people to serve in the weeks and months ahead. You may be asked to serve in an area you have never even considered. You may be asked to serve in an area that stretches your comfort zone. You may be asked to serve in an area that doesn't get a lot of "honor". But remember what this verse says, *"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them"*. Let us together use our gifts to serve God, serve one another, and serve the lost.

In Christ's Eternal Love,

Pastor Chris

Elder's

CORNER

--- "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." ---

The words above were spoken by Jim Elliot, an evangelical Christian missionary to Ecuador, who was killed back in January 1956 while seeking to share Jesus Christ with the Waodani people. By his faith and actions, Brother Elliot illustrated that he understood that his life was not his own, and that he had been bought at a steep price, the life of His Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. What a wonderful thing God has done in that He has freed us from the bondage, the guilt, and the pain of sin by the suffering and death of His Son. "He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

As we begin a new year and take stock of who we really and truly are, by the evidence produced by our past and present actions, I would suggest that this might be a good time for you and me to consider the "state of our union" with Jesus. Is Jesus truly the most important person in your life? Is there anyone or anything that occupies more of your attention and focus than Jesus? When you inventory the time you spend in an average week, is there something or somewhere you are drawn to more than to the person and presence of Jesus? When you run through the ledger of your checkbook and see where you spend the paycheck that God provides to you, are you putting the dollars which are not yours, but His, to proper and worthwhile use? Jim Elliot applied God's resources and his efforts even to the extreme of sacrificing his life for God's glory and the increase of His kingdom. He gave up what he could not keep (his life, his wife and children, the things of this world) to gain that which he could not lose (eternity with his Father and Savior in heaven).

As a body of believers we have been called by God to worship Him only, to protect the witness of Christ's body through our unity and love for one another as blood brothers and sisters in Christ, and to commit all of the resources He has given us to see lost and destitute people come to the outstretched arms of Jesus. As elders we are unified in our understanding that the simple and most important reason for Santee Circle Community Church's existence is to harvest the fields because they are ripe for the picking. It is not to build a fancy, amazingly huge church complex nor to see just how fast and big we can grow in numbers; no, our primary purpose is and must be to grow the kingdom of God one soul at a time by taking the real and resurrected Person of Jesus Christ to those who have not heard of Him; even to those who have previously or are currently denying Him. We must go to them, trusting not that we can change them or that they can change themselves, but rather trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit that He can change their heart and desires and draw them to Himself.

As we consider our Father's call to reach "One More" for Jesus Christ, over the next week or so it will be so important that you lift up the proposed spending plan for 2011, which was sent out to you earlier this week, in prayer. The Budget Management Team (which includes Ms. Amanda Williamson, Ms. Carla Lightner, and I) have prayerfully and carefully assembled together a plan for spending which lines up with God's Word to the elders that we are to primarily center the church's spending around activities and efforts which actively tell people about Jesus Christ. It is through those of us who call Santee Circle Community Church our church home and those who generously support SCCC's ministry efforts that God will provide all that we need in 2011 to carry out the work He has for us to do.

I challenge you to give this year in accordance with how you feel God has blessed you. One thing I have learned from personal experience is that a dollar given to God will accomplish so much more than any where else you can possibly invest it. If you are one who does not tithe, make this the year that you take this important step of faith and obedience. If you are already tithing, ask the Father if He is calling you to give over and above the tithe this year.

Test God in 2011 and see first hand for yourself what He means when He says He will "throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10)

May God Bless You and Yours!

David O'Dell

SCCC

"Love Your Neighbor"

Swap Shop

Saturday, Feb. 26th
9 am - 12 noon

Bring your donations of clean, gently used items to the church prior to the swap. (We take EVERYTHING - clothes, furniture, decorative items, toys, books, etc). Then invite your friends & neighbors to join us for the fun!

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME,
EVERTHING IS
FREE!**

Questions? Call the church
at 899-5912.

Donations not required to
shop at the swap...

If you have some,
bring some.

If you need some, take some.

Changed Lives Ministry

News

**Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?
Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?**

(2 Corinthians 6:14)

The concept of the “unequal yoke” comes from Deuteronomy 22:10, “Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.” The ox was a clean animal to the Jews, but the donkey was not; and it would be wrong to yoke them together. Furthermore, they have two opposite natures and would not work well together. In the same way, it is wrong for be-

lievers to be yoked together with unbelievers. When we try to walk with the world and with the Lord at the same time, we break our spiritual fellowship and create discord and division.

As Christians, we sometimes tend to use this text of scripture only when it applies to marriage, instead of applying it to every aspect of our lives. That should not be the case!! Here at Changed Lives Ministry we try to encourage the men and ourselves, to use this in all relationships. We convey to them, during their 10 week stay with us that they need not go back to those old playmates and playgrounds. It is so important for us to be a part of the body of Christ, have fellowship with one another, hold each other accountable and keep our relationships equally yoked with Jesus Christ.

Praise the Lord!!! God is working here at Changed Lives Ministry. There is a spirit of unity among the men here. Jesus says in John chapter 3, “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” We can’t see God, but we sure can see Him working throughout this ministry. He has been faithful in sending us men who are truly searching for a new direction in their lives. A lot of these men come to us broken, defeated and nowhere else to look for help, except up. We thank God everyday for Santee Circle Community church and the countless number of people who support this ministry. Also, I would personally like to thank the staff (Jesse Sullivan, Larry Kennedy, Roger Bass, and James Riffle) who work with me every day, volunteering their time and lives to “give back” and comfort these men, with the comfort they themselves received. We would also like to thank Steve Meadows, Dr. Michael Hill and James Riffle for returning to one of our key tools, “The Exit Strategies”, which helps these men focus on what they will do upon graduating our facilities. These series of meetings touch on some very important discussion questions. **Where will you stay? What will you do? Do you have structured activities that will keep you busy? Do you have an accountability partner? How will you recover if you stumble?** These questions just scratch the surface of what is discussed with the men here.

We also would like to thank the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for meeting with our Board of Directors and setting up a presentation with the men to provide opportunities of job training and employment to these men. A lot of men who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction have a hard time getting back into the workforce and we are grateful that they are taking the time to partner with us. We have had a number of men to graduate in the recent months; Dwayne Parker, James Wanzer, Jewel Boyd, Aaron Adams, David Ahrens, John Hall, Tim Brown, Jonathan Wilkerson, Chris Anderson, John York, Steven Cutter, Travis Tyler, Steven Bergquist, Ryan Spires, John Stewart, Doug Massie, Chris Slayton and Brandon Hall. Please keep these men in your prayers as well as our new arrivals. The men we currently have with us are Chad Whaley, Kermit Clough, Henry Tomlinson, Michael Wereski, Timothy Jackson, David Penn, Robert Jones and Jason Hardee. Please pray that these men will return to their families and be the spiritual leaders God intended them to be and that they will **remain yoked with fellow believers.**

Yours in Christ,
Neil Raney



CLM Devotional Schedule

Tues, Feb 1st

Joe Wofford

Thurs, Feb 3rd

Rusty Metts

Fri, Feb 4th

Trey McCants

Mon, Feb 7th

Steve Meadows

Tues, Feb 8th

Brandon Linder

Thurs, Feb 10th

Stacy Hardee

Fri, Feb 11th

JD Steedley

Mon, Feb 14th

Mike Nolen

Tues, Feb 15th

Neal Medinger

Thurs, Feb 17th

Stanley Bruce

Fri, Feb 18th

Mickey Sauls

Mon, Feb 21st

Steve Meadows

Tues, Feb 22nd

Brandon Linder

Thurs, Feb 24th

Brian Lynch

Kidz CONNECTION

"Then He called a child to Him and had him stand among them. 'I assure you,' He said, 'unless you are converted and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child—this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one child like this in My name welcomes Me.'" - Matthew 18: 2-5

The words of Jesus in Matthew 18 serve as a great reminder of the importance of children to our Lord and Savior. It is truly an experience like no other to view Christ through the eyes of a child; however, along with the privilege of getting to share Jesus with those whom He called the "greatest in the kingdom of heaven", comes a great responsibility as well. Christ goes on in this passage of Scripture to say in verse 6 *"But whoever causes the downfall of one of these little ones who believe in Me—it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea!"* Jesus clearly takes the lives, hearts, and souls of children very seriously, and we at SCCC are striving to closely imitate Christ in our ministry to the children the Lord has entrusted us with. Our Wednesday night children's program is truly an incredible blessing to all those involved. On average, 30 children per week have been boarding our church bus and coming in to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ along with our car riders! Praise the Lord! God continues to provide amazing workers to love on and minister to these children while the awesome senior adults of SCCC, led by Mr. Charles McNeil, have been wonderful about helping to provide snacks and drinks for our kids. Many, many thanks goes out to you all! Plans are currently in the works for another fun-filled, Christ-centered week during Spring Break like last year's "After the Cross" activities, so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open for updates and announcements.

On Sunday mornings, kidz CONNECTION is about to embark on an exciting journey through the "Seven C's of History". As we delve into these "Seven C's" - Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation, we are going to be learning the *true* history of mankind beginning with the creation of the world and everything in it and going straight through to the one event that hasn't yet occurred but that we are all waiting for...the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The foundation building curriculum we are using is entitled "Answers for Kids" and is from the strong Biblically based company called "Answers in Genesis". We are thrilled to announce that the children will be sharing what they are learning through a special program on Sunday, April 17th during the 10:30 am service!

So many exciting things happen in our children's lives on a daily basis, but the most exciting of all is when a child gives his or her life to Jesus Christ. Mr. Samuel McCants, the son of Trey and Brandi McCants and awesome big brother to baby Silas made just such a profession public on Sunday, January 30th! We are thrilled to see one more come forward for the kingdom of God and will continue to pray for Samuel as he begins his life-long journey following in the footsteps of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The entire children's department of SCCC thanks you for your support and for your prayers! Keep them coming!



Valentine's Banquet

Date Night at Santa Cruz Circle Community Church

Sponsored by the SCCC Youth Group

Buy your tickets now for this special banquet on Saturday, February 19th at 6:00 pm featuring a delicious dinner of Chef O's Tuscan Chicken Alfredo followed by a movie. Child care will be provided!

Tickets: Couples - \$20 Singles - \$12

See a youth group member or stop by the Welcome Table to buy your tickets!