

Alderwood Community Church
January 17, 2010

“State Of The Church Address”
 Part One

Intro: At the end of January or the first part of February, President Barack Obama will deliver the State of the Union address. It was scheduled to air on Tues. Feb. 2 on the same night that the Season Premier of “Lost” was to air, thus bumping “Lost” to another night. Many “Lost” fans panicked and raised a stink. I bring you glad tidings of great joy, the White House administration has decided that the State of the Union will not be on Feb. 2!

The State of the Union is an annual address presented by the President of the United States to the joint session of Congress. The address not only reports on the condition of the nation but also allows the president to outline his legislative agenda and national priorities. C-Span.org has the transcripts of the State of the Union addresses of our Presidents dating back to Harry S. Truman’s 1945 address.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave a series of radio broadcasts between 1933 and 1944 that he called his “Fireside Chats”. His first broadcast was on March 12, 1933 during the Great Depression in which he reassured the nation that it was going to recover and in which he shared his hopes and plans for the country.

1. Progress Reports

“Those who accepted his message were baptized and about three thousand souls were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:41-42

“And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:47

“But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.” Acts 4:4

“All the believers were in one heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There was no needy person among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.” Acts 4:32-35

“Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.” Acts 5:14-15

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus Christ is Lord.” Acts 5:42

“So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.” Acts 6:7

2. Satan’s Counter-Attacks

- A. Persecution (3 times believers were brought before the Sanhedrin: Threatened (Ch. 4-Peter and John), beaten (Ch. 5- apostles) and stoned (Stephen))
- B. Moral subversion (Ch. 5- Ananias and Sapphira 5:3 *“Peter said, Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit.”*)
- C. Internal conflict (Ch. 6:1 *“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.”*)
- D. Misplaced priorities (Ch. 6:2 *“It is not right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.”*)

3. Alderwood Community Church

A. Count our blessings

“Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.” Psalm 103:2-5

- (1) Giving is up. You are such a generous church. General Fund - Missions- Greg Lyons- Hurricane that hit Manilla, Thanksgiving/Christmas Offering for Missionaries. BFL – Benevolence.

Lifeway Research surveyed 1,002 Protestant churches across America in November, 2009 and 57% said the tight economy was hurting their church.

- (2) Attendance is up. Worship Services, Men’s Fraternity, Small Groups, MOPS
- (3) Spirit is good. Sense of unity. Many have expressed how much they “love their church”. Guest musicians- Votbergs (Children who fiddled) commented that they sensed a very sweet spirit in our church. They sensed our love for Christ and for one another.
- (4) Lives are being changed. Saved, Baptisms (Shasta, Edmonds Marina Beach)

B. Reaffirm our values. (Spring Training Camp, Airline Pilots- master the basics)
So we don't stray from our original purpose and mission.

(1) **Love God** (Worship, adoration, affection, obedience, service)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

Word of God

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” John 14:15

“Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long...How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth...My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end...Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me...

Psalm 119:97,103,112,133

(2) **Love People**

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and truth.” 1 John 3:18

(3) **Talk and teach about Jesus. (Making Disciples)**

“He [Jesus] said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach [talk about] the good news to all creation.’” Mark 16:15

Acts 4:18-20 “Then they [Sanhedrin] called them [Peter and John] in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, ‘Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’”

Acts 5:27-29 “Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,’ he said, ‘Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.’ Peter and the other apostles replied, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’”

Why are we to constantly talk about Jesus? Because *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15