

Alderwood Community Church
January 24, 2010

“State Of The Church Address”
 Part Two

Intro: Last week I began our “State of the Church” address. I was inspired by our text in Acts 6:7 “*So the Word of God spread. The number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priest became obedient to the faith.*”

(Review from last Sunday)

1. Progress Reports (Acts 2:41-42,47; 4:4,32-35; 5:14-15,42; 6:7)

2. Satan’s Counter-Attacks

- A. Persecution 3 times believers were brought before the Sanhedrin: (Ch. 4, 5, 6)
- B. Moral subversion (Ch. 5- Ananias and Sapphira)
- C. Internal conflict (Ch. 6:1)
- D. Misplaced priorities (Ch. 6:2)

3. Alderwood Community Church

A. Count our blessings Psalm 103:2-5

Giving is up. Attendance is up. Spirit is good. Great sense of unity. Lives are being changed.

New song last Sunday: “*The hand of God is on this place! He has shown us his favor, his goodness and grace.*”

B. Reaffirm our values. So we don’t stray from our original purpose and mission.

(1) Love God (Matthew 22:37-40) (Worship, adoration, obedience, service)

Word of God (John 14:15; Psalm 119:97,103,112,133)

(2) Love People (1 John 3:18)

(3) Talk about Jesus. (Mark 16:15; Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-29) (Making Disciples)
 (Audio/Visual Christians)

“*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

(We pick up here this Sunday)

Let me share with you my heart and vision for Alderwood:

1. Grace filled community...that grace would be our fragrance. That we would be a safe, accepting church- where people can be honest. “We are all messed up, stumbling followers of Christ.”

A mature balance of personal holiness and non-judgmental patience with others is needed. When we do confront, we do it with sensitivity, love and truth!

2. Christ-like people “*My dear children, for whom I am in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.” Gal. 4:19*

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13

3. Every member is a host. (I greeted one of our members last week (Barbara) and she let me know that she was sitting in a different part of the auditorium than she normally does and told me she purposely sits in different sections of the auditorium in order to meet more people.)

4. Every member belongs to a “Life Group”- A group of other believers that meets together to study God’s Word, pray and share life together. A place where there is a real sense of belonging, accountability and care.

5. We would saturate our community- with the name of Jesus, with service and love.

6. We would saturate our hearts and minds with God’s Word- We would be characterized as a “people of the book”.

7. We would add a 3rd worship service to minister to the needs of our growing congregation as well as the new people God is yet to place in our care.

8. We would plant daughter churches.

9. We would own property “corner to corner” to have an increased presence and increased potential to reach even more with the love, grace and truth of Jesus Christ!!!

A. Count our blessings.

B. Reaffirm our values.

C. Responsibly deal with our ‘growing pains’.

Illus: Growing up as a boy I would get cramps in my calf muscle (Charlie horse). Outgrow clothes- had to buy new ones. Acne.. Just as we have to adjust to our physical bodies and their growing pains, as a church body, we all have to adjust to our growing pains, we have:

- (1) More people
- (2) Crowded auditorium
- (3) Not enough parking

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:3-5

D. Be alert to our enemies schemes. (Persecution, Moral subversion, Internal conflict (division, gossip, taking sides, pride) and Misplaced priorities.)

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him standing firm in your faith.” 1 Peter 5:8-9a

E. Do our part! God’s church, our church, my church

Go back and circle “our” blessings, our values, our growing pains, our enemy and now it is “our part”.

“Jesus replied, ‘I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.’ Matt 16:18

- (1) Pray (For God’s glory, God’s guidance, Lost people will find Christ, and we will all be growing disciples of Jesus.)
- (2) Be Flexible (And patient with change. Adjust graciously)
- (3) Serve (Step in. Speak up. Make a difference!)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

If everybody else did exactly what I do, what kind of church would we have? (Too negative?)

- (4) Protect

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:2-3

- (5) Love