

2009/2010
CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

Presented June 13, 2010



Clovis Evangelical Free Church

Report from the Transitional Pastor
June 13, 2010

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to briefly summarize the past year, April 2009 until the present. It is presented in summary form for brevity and ease of understanding, and also to serve as points of discussion for congregational meeting.

April 15, 2009:

- One Year Anniversary of Arrival of transitional Pastor Al Oliver

April 20, 2009 through June 14, 2009:

- Continued series on Hebrews which began January 4, 2009

April 15, 2009:

- Sonny Martini announced he would be leaving CEFC and going to New Covenant Church on May 31.

May 4, 2009:

- Verla Oliver has surgery for a detached retina. Recovery period to be 8 weeks.

June 2009:

- Continued series on Hebrews
- Father's Day message
- New Carpet installed and New Chairs delivered to the Worship Center
- VBS Sunday

July 2009:

- Preached a short series on the values of the Church
- Constitution and Bylaws reviewed by the Elders
- Chip Henderson announces he will be leaving for New Covenant Church at the end of August

August-September 2009:

- Planning for fall "Cross-Training" program with staff
- Resumed preaching series on Hebrews
- Fall program commences

October 7-18, 2009:

- In Delaware

October 25, 2009:

- Congregational discussion on draft Constitution and Bylaws

November, 2009:

- Youth Sunday
- Advent series begins through December 20, 2009

December 2009-January 2010:

- Christmas Eve Service
- Resume series on Hebrews (January)
- Vote by the Congregation on the Constitution and Bylaws January 10, 2010
- Elder discussion begins on a new Philosophy of Ministry for CEFC
- Formation of Pastoral Profile Committee

February 2010:

- A Philosophy of Ministry is adopted by the Elders
- A preaching series on the Philosophy of Ministry Begins
- Formation of the Pastoral Search Committee
- All Church Bar-B-Que

March 2010:

- Nominating Committee formed
- Ministry Structure and leadership discussed by elders
- Review and restructure of budgeting and financial reporting system commenced

April 2010:

- Palm Sunday Service (March 28)
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Sunday
- Al's Grandson, Joshua Nungester born at 25 weeks

April - May 2010:

- Continued series on Philosophy of Ministry
- Review of budgets for next fiscal year
- Prepare for Annual business meeting

Elder Notes

Ron Yee serves in the High School ministry and worked very hard to guide the board through the Philosophy of Ministry process so that a document could be published and a sermon series initiated. When Ron's tenure as Elder Board chair is over, he will continue to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee.

Mark Schroeder serves with the finance committee and worked very hard to help develop a forward looking budgeting process which will serve as a better planning tool for the future.

Matt Verhalen serves in the High School ministry.

Martin Mayfield serves in the area of Mercy Ministry as well as the pulpit ministry.

Dan Wuthrich serves in the area of Children's Ministry as well as the pulpit ministry.

Greg Smith serves in Missions.

Bruce Turner serves as the staff elder.

Staff Notes

Bruce Turner - Bruce focuses on college ministries, men's ministries, and development of general adult ministries and the integration of each respective area. Bruce is leading an effort to develop a "Scope and Sequence" for our educational and discipleship goals for each age group in the church from children through adults.

Tom Adams - Tom has general administrative duties alongside his duties as Worship Pastor. Tom worked with Al and the finance team to develop a forward looking budget process which will serve as a better planning tool for ministry.

Tammy Donohoe - Tammy was asked to assume the duties of Children's Ministry Director upon the departure of Chip Henderson. She is working with the scope and sequence process to develop the children's ministry and to initiate programming for the fall of 2010.

Gordon Ogden - Gordon will be retiring August 31, 2010.

Pastor of Worship Arts Ministry Report

Overview

While being responsible for leading CEFC into God's presence each week through music and the arts, I have been charged with a new responsibility: administration. In January 2009, Pastor Al asked me to be the acting Administrative Pastor overseeing the day-to-day operation of the church. By taking this responsibility, Pastor Al was freed up to focus on the bigger projects; Constitution and Bylaws, Philosophy of Ministry, Preaching the Word, etc. Pastor Bruce was also released to give more time and energy to adult, college and men's ministries.

Administrative Duties

On a weekly basis I oversee staff meetings, supervise support staff, oversee building and grounds and day-to-day operation of the church office. It has also been my privilege to oversee our special volunteer landscaping crew, "The Yard Dogs."

Two major projects were accomplished this last fiscal year: the purchase and installation of our new carpet and chairs, along with resealing the church parking lot.

Worship Arts

The depth of God's presence is evident in our corporate worship as we continue to walk through our faith commitments of a healthy church.

We enjoyed a glorious Advent and Christmas celebration, along with a wonderful Easter service. Our congregation recently shared their hospitality with the Cal-Baptist Women's Choir and we were extremely blessed by their ministry.

Miscellaneous

Other highlights this year, included a successful Fall Family Festival, where 950 of our neighbors and friends enjoyed the evening together.

Thank you for the privilege to partner with you in building God's kingdom!

*Tom Adams
Pastor of Worship Arts*

Pastor to Adults Ministry Report

Adult Bible Electives

During the past summer, we launched a new format for our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening adult classes ~ electives. Our current Sunday morning groups, Soul Café and Kingdom Living, hosted several series (“Reformation Overview” and “Crazy Love”). On Wednesday evening, we offered two classes, “Men Leading the Charge” and “Freed Up Financial Living.”

Beginning last September, Soul Café began a new series entitled “God Alone,” a study of the main themes of the Reformation. Kingdom Living hosted a study called “The Case for A Creator,” the biblical defense for Creationism. On Wednesday evenings, we offered three classes, “Parental Guidance Required,” “Freed Up Financial Living,” and “Leadership Lessons in Joshua.”

Then, in the winter and spring, our Sunday morning adult classes started their new studies. Soul Café is currently in a study of the book of Acts. Kingdom Living has chosen to walk through the areas of systematic theology in a DVD series entitled “Foundations.” On Wednesday evenings, we offered “The Truth Project,” a study of the impact of the Christian worldview, in our daily lives.

The level of participation through increased attendance and enthusiasm has been encouraging in this last year. As we promote new studies and encourage members of the congregation to take a step forward in their biblical understanding and Christian fellowship, we find that people are growing in their walk with God and connecting in their relationships with other members of the Body.

Our adult classes will be joining forces over the summer to encourage greater church-wide participation in our adult class, “The Life of Christ.” Over the summer, our adult class leaders will be meeting to discuss a “Scope and Sequence” for our adult ministries and how we can implement this strategic philosophy in our future curriculum choices.

College Age Ministry

In 2009-2010, Matt Schulz and I have been working together to encourage greater integration of the college students into the life of the church. A few have participated in the adult electives that have been offered over the past year. Some of our college students have attended our church membership class. Others have gotten involved in other ministries, including children’s, junior high, senior high, missions, and worship arts. Currently, several of the students are serving through local outreach projects and campus evangelism ministries. At least five of our students are committed to summer and short-term mission projects. We have also planned series, testimonies, and events, which brought the adults of our church into greater contact with the students.

We have simplified our structure from a formalized student task force, to a decentralized approach, working with individual students based on their availability, interest, and areas of giftedness.

Here is a list of the topics we have covered over the past year: Identity in Christ, Personal Walk with God, Keeping Your Faith in College, God’s Will, Spiritual Gifts, Career Choices, Friendships, Faith, Romans, Relationships, and Spiritual Warfare.

We will be working on implanting our newly developed Scope and Sequence into our curriculum choices. During this next year, we plan to address the following topics: Campus Outreach and Career Decisions. We will continue to implement further ideas for student integration into church life as well as commitment to campus and workplace evangelism, mission involvement, and local community service.

Men's Ministry

In the summer of 2009, we organized a men's ministry team to discuss the needs of men in our church and ways we could reach out and encourage them. We immediately launched several events: men's breakfasts, a men's class ("Men Leading the Charge") and a men's softball league. The men in our church completed a Men's Ministry Survey, which identified key areas of interest and involvement. The men's ministry team began working toward a fall men's retreat. On a weekend in October, almost forty men participated in our "Iron Works" Retreat held at "Timber Mountain," Sugar Pine Christian Camp. Through this weekend, we launched our new ministry, the "Men's Care Commission." Since the fall, about 35 men have been involved in serving others within our church and community, including the elderly, widows, or people with specific needs. We have reached out to seven care receivers. We meet once a month on a Saturday morning for breakfast, prayer, and devotions, and then head out to complete the team project assigned for that day.

We will be gathering our men's ministry team together over the summer to evaluate our events and strategy and brainstorm ways for men to build relationships and grow in their role as husbands, fathers, and/or spiritual leaders in the church and community. We will be offering a men's softball league and considering several men's studies as small groups as well as a men's retreat weekend in the fall.

*Bruce Turner
Pastor to Adults*

Women's Ministry

This year our primary focus has been on the women at Clovis Ev Free. We have been working on tearing down the walls that have been built up over the years. We believe that as sisters in Christ, we need to bind together with one mission, and one goal . . .

TO GLORIFY CHRIST.

- Our women had a wonderful time studying God's word together this year.
- Their studies included: "Enough is Enough" by Shawna Marie Bryant
"He speaks to Me" by Pricilla Shirer.
- We had a great time at the Whitling barn getting to know each other.
- We also have had several women host ladies fellowship nights in their homes.

We look forward to this next year of fellowship and serving our Lord and Savior together.

In His service,

The Ladies Ministry Team

"Fire By Nite"

The "Fire By Nite" ministry has transitioned over the last year from a staff directed ministry to one led by volunteers. We are grateful for the number of people who have stepped forward, taken on additional responsibility, and are using their gifts to serve and lead our High School Students.

As we move into the 2010-2011 year we have clarified the purpose of our meeting times (Sunday mornings - Worship & Bible Study), Thursday nights (Variety!!! Guest speakers, nights of worship and prayer, special topical series, testimonies, serving opportunities, and game nights), and Monday nights (Bible Study with some homework during the week). We are not only teaching our students the word of God but developing in them the skills needed to study God's word for themselves.

Our desire is to train our students to be devoted followers of Jesus Christ, to know the word of God, and the incredible nature and character of God. We will continue to focus on them building a solid Biblical foundation on which to base their lives, their decisions, and their response to the culture in which we live. Our hope is that they would glorify God in their thoughts, relationships, words, and actions. We will challenge them to put their faith into action, because that is the only kind of faith there is.

In High School Ministry there is always more work to be done and challenges to face, but in the midst of these we are grateful to God for his strength, his guidance, and encouragement. We look forward with excitement to what God will bring about over the next year in the lives of our students.

Wildfire Junior High Ministry

God is sovereign. God is faithful and true.

Our theme verse for this past year was John 13:34-35. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Teaching this year was shared primarily between Tim Parker and myself. Our Sunday school time is devoted to searching God's Word in ever-increasing depth. This year we conducted a survey of the entire Old Testament. Our intent was to give students a more global understanding of God's covenant with His people, as presented in anticipation of the Yeshua Messiah. Our Wednesday night program was stronger relationally; as we dealt with topics our students are facing and struggling with in their daily lives. We used 1 Timothy 4:12 as our guiding verse for our Wednesday evening studies and explorations.

While many of our activities were traditional for our youth group ~ a bon fire event, a progressive dinner, an all-nighter ~ we also attempted to generate interest in outreach with a few new events. We held an outreach in which we partnered with youth from Clovis First Baptist to teach students how to solve a Rubik's cube with Gospel message attached. We've also taken on an on-going service project by adopting a flowerbed area in the front of the church.

In the King's Service,

Ted Hawkins

Director of Junior High Ministries

Shepherd's Field Recap

2009/2010

This year brought many changes to children's ministry. However, our goal has not changed. We want to see that every child comes to know, love, and serve Jesus.

We began a new Wednesday night ministry called Cross Training. Three children came to know Christ through this ministry.

- They learned about Solomon.
- They learned that we are all a part of the body of Christ. (One body with many different parts.)
- They learned about baby Jesus and the shepherds.
- They were challenged to get to know God better by reading His word.
- They learned about being truthful, and the ripple effect of dishonesty.
- They learned about the death and resurrection of Jesus; that Jesus loves each of them so much, that He gave his life for them on the cross.
- They learned that God has a plan for their lives, and as they come to know Him better, He will help them understand that plan.

On Sunday mornings our first hour classes have been learning many great things from God's word.

- The K/1 class has been doing WILLOW CREEK curriculum. They all (*including the leaders*) had a great time getting to know more about Jesus.
- The 2nd/3rd grade has been going through the Desiring God series. And WOW, have they ever been going deep!
- The BEACH has been walking through the books of the bible.
- Sixth graders just finished the Preparing for Adolescence series.

In Second hour Celebration, we used dramas to share God's word.

- They learned the Lord's Prayer.
- They learned about Moses and the exodus from Egypt.
- They learned about God's unstoppable love.
- They took a journey through the Bible, with the Last Samurai, from Adam and Eve to the resurrection.
- They studied I Timothy 4:12 and how to set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.
- They studied the fruit of the spirit from Galatians 5:16-26.
- They learned about God's power.

Five children came to Christ during our Sunday school hours. What a privilege it is to know that Christ is working through us to call His children to Him! We had a small group party on June 6th to wrap things up in each class. The new summer schedule began this morning on June 13th.

The summer curriculum for lower and upper elementary students will be as follows:

Lower elementary students:

- Will be taking a closer look at the life of Joseph.
- Will look at the wrong choices that he made and yet God still used him in a big way.
- Will be asking if God can use them? And if so, how?

Upper elementary students:

- Will be taking part in Evangelism Explosion for Kids.
- Will look at their relationship with Christ.
- Will ask the question "Do I know for sure that I will go to heaven?"
- Will look at what they base their answer to that question on.
- Will learn how to share Christ with others without fear.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the children at Clovis Evangelical Free Church.

In His service,

Tammy Donohoe

Mercy Ministries

Matthew 25:40 ...even the least of them, you did it to Me.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers Peer Supervision meetings are scheduled monthly. Meetings include case presentations and constructive group sharing and support. Care receiver confidentiality is maintained.

Celebrate Recovery Ministry

Currently this outreach ministry is on hiatus. It addresses the recovery needs of addiction-afflicted individuals struggling with alcohol abuse, drug addiction, sex addiction, etc. Structured support group 12 Step sharing follows biblically based worship time. The assessment of this ministry being reintroduced will take place during the fall of 2010.

Women's Compassion Connection

- This ministry is a modification of the former HUGS ministry, which was designed specifically as support for widows attending the church. In time it has evolved to include a variety of needs of women who attend the church as well as women of the local community. The ministry addresses such needs as:
- Compassion, mercy, and encouragement
- Getting to know the mercy of Jesus
- Christ centered fellowship
- Recapturing emotional stability
- Biblical precepts
- Supportive socialization
- Stability in loss (E.g., Marital, Loved ones, Financial, Spiritual, Physical.)

GriefShare Ministry

The GriefShare Ministry continues to meet regularly on Tuesday evenings. The attendance ranges from 10 to 14. Both men and women attend. This outreach ministry includes at least 75% attendance of individuals from other churches and those of the local community without church affiliation. Christ's love is the ministry theme.

Counseling Ministry

Weekly professional counseling sessions continue to average from 21 to 26 sessions. Confidential files are updated for each session. Integrity of confidentiality is maintained. Discipleship and prayer are essential components the counseling process. Counseling skills and cases are evaluated through an "in-service" relationship with a professional colleague mentor on a monthly basis.

Romans 12:1-2 ...by the renewing of your mind.

Colossians 1:28 ...so that we may present every man complete in Christ

Gordon Ogden, M.A., LMFT
Director – Mercy Ministries
Clovis Evangelical Free Church