



SFCC 40TH NEWSLETTER

December 2009 Volume 1, Issue 2

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOCUS OF THE MONTH

Northwest Harvest Food Packing Volunteering 12:45 PM 12/19 (Sat)

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

*"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'
(Matthew 25:35-40).*

In this chilly cold season, do you think about the many poor, unfortunate, or marginalized people in our world who need our help? Northwest Harvest is a hunger relief agency in Washington state, with the mission of getting nutritious food

to those who need it. It offers us many ways to help relief hunger, such as donating to the food drive, or volunteering our time to help pack and prepare food.

In the past two years, SFCC has partnered with NW Harvest in the ongoing food drive, collecting imperishable food in our church. We have also organized teams of volunteers from church to help with food handling in the NW Harvest warehouse in Kent once every quarter. The tasks are very simple, consisting of dividing food (usually some type of frozen vegetable or fruit) and packing it into bags and boxes.

Anyone who is eight years old or older and is in good health can participate in this activity. We hope that everyone in your family can come and experience this meaningful community service with us before the end of 2009. On Saturday,

December 19th, let us join together to help at NW Harvest in Kent.

Date: Saturday, December 19th
Time: 12:45pm to 3:00pm
Location: NW Harvest Kent Warehouse
22220 68th Ave S
(a/k/a West Valley Hwy)
Kent, WA 98032-1915

Registration: To help NW Harvest plan, please register with Scott Lee at leesc_scl@yahoo.com by 12/15

To learn more about Northwest Harvest, please visit http://www.northwestharvest.org/About_US/About_Us.htm

Please remember to ask for directions to the Kent Warehouse, as well as the Volunteer's Code of Conduct when you register



UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Sundays
11/29 Hope: 10am TM service, 12pm EM service
12/06 Peace: 12pm Combined service
12/13 Joy: 10am TM service, 12pm EM service
12/20 Love: 10am TM service, 12pm EM service

Christmas Eve Service: 12/24 (Thu) 7pm

One Night Count: January 2010
Child Sponsorship
Serving International Students
Serving Elderly



The vision of SFCC

Sermon Message by Pastor Walt

10/11/2009

Scripture Passage: Romans 15:18-21

I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

The LORD be with you. Last Sunday (40th anniversary thanksgiving Sunday), we saw from the Scriptures that the most important thing we must do as a church is to obey, listen to, and fix our eyes on Jesus. And only by doing so can we carry out His ministry here on earth, specifically here in Seattle. But in order to effectively carry out Jesus' ministry, we need to have a clear vision. So that's what I'd like to focus on in today's message: The vision of SFCC.

Before we look at what a vision is, and more specifically what our church's vision is, I'd like us to first look at Paul and his ministry. In Romans 15, starting with verse 18, he says, "I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done"

In this verse, notice how Paul stresses that his ministry is, NOT something he started; NOT something he designed; and NOT something he dreamed up. Instead, it was what Christ had first accomplished, then passed on to him... Then, Paul continues in verse 19, that his ministry is done "by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed

the gospel of Christ." Notice here he stated that his mission is not in his own power. Instead, it is God who works signs and miracles; it is the Holy Spirit who gave him the power to preach the Gospel, from Jerusalem to Illyricum (or modern day Bosnia).

And finally, from verse 20 to 21, Paul says "it has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

See how Paul had a clear aim or goal in view as he carried out his mission. He did not wake up every morning and say, "Jesus, I have no idea what my mission is today, please tell me." No, he had an ambition. He had a vision statement: "To preach the gospel where Christ was not known." Now, not everybody was called to do what Paul did. Timothy was called to stay and minister in Ephesus. Titus was called to stay in Crete. But Paul had a focus, a call, and a vision statement which he could state, and that is: "It has been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known."

Now, what exactly is vision? The word vision can mean different things to different people. It could be a sight, a dream, a revelation, or an enlightenment of some sort, right? But from a biblical stand point, we could describe vision as "a well thought-through, clearly-stated objective, given by God to His peoples, so that they understand it and hopefully believe it and act upon it." The Bible tells us that without vision, or without believing and acting upon it, we are lost.

As Proverbs 29:18 tells us, "where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law." Hosea 4:6 says, "my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

Here knowledge is more than just information. It's the knowledge of who God is and what his will is. And God describes his people, saying that they are destroyed because they do not know what his will is. So without a clear-defined God given vision, we are lost; not only as individuals, but also as a church, as a community of God's people. But when God's vision becomes our vision, we will begin to see that we are actually walking in the way of blessing.

Now, how many of you can recite our church's vision statement from memory? I'm not talking about the theme for the year, which is Loving Christ, Loving the

Church, Loving the Community, but the overarching vision for our church here at SFCC.

And before you say anything, I remember back in Feb one Sunday where the TAB committee held a Q&A meeting regarding TM pastor's renewal. One of the comments was that if the pastor's term is not renewed, we would be lost and be heading nowhere. The general feeling was that if there's no shepherd, the church would have no vision, and it would be without direction. Then, I remember one of the TAB members stood up and said, "No, SFCC has a vision statement, and it's printed every week on the cover of the bulletin." So brothers and sisters, what is the vision statement of our church?

A purpose driven church that glorifies God by sharing God's love to the un-churched and training them into devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Now, when I first came to SFCC back on 2007, I was impressed by how this church has such a clear vision statement where every ministry in the church revolves around it. I was later told that it was Pastor Joshua, Pastor Solomon, and some of the key church leaders who helped craft this vision statement in 2004. They spent much time to pray and discern what God may be saying to church community. They looked at the church's history. They looked at its strengths and weaknesses and after much consideration, discussion, and prayer, they came up with this vision statement for the church.

Our vision statement defines who we are, how we function, and why we exist. You see, in this short statement, we see that SFCC's ultimate purpose is to glorify God. And we believe that this God is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In other words, everything we do here, everything that defines who we are as a church revolves around this person Jesus. Therefore, our ultimate purpose here at SFCC, to make Jesus known and to train others as his disciples.

Now, in order to effectively fulfill this ultimate purpose, there are 5 areas we focus on here at SFCC.

1. The first area is Worship: to worship God and bring glory to His name. We gather together to worship Him on Sundays, and in our ministry we have a worship committee in which the pastors and the committee can co-work together to coordinate the details of the Sunday service, and encourage everyone to come and worship on a regular basis. But not only do we worship God on Sundays, but



we also encourage one another to worship God with our lives during the week days, at work, at school, or at home. That's the first area of ministry here at SFCC: worship.

2. The second area is Fellowship: where brothers and sisters can mutually encourage and support each other in their lives through fellowships and small groups. We also have the fellowship/connection committee in place to oversee all the fellowships and small groups in the church, and to create a sense of belonging in this community. That's the second area of ministry here at SFCC: fellowship.

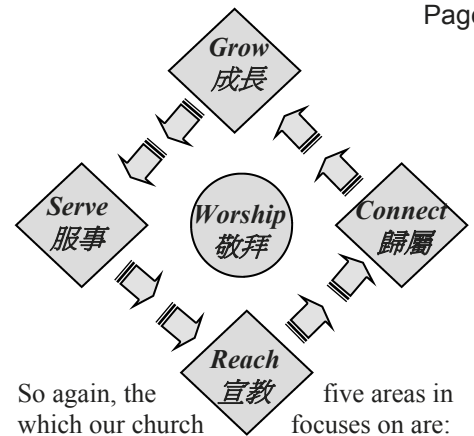
3. The third area is Discipleship: to help people grow into spiritual maturity. This could be Sunday sermons, Sunday school classes, small group Bible studies, or one-on-one discipleship where two or three people meet up on a regular basis to learn and grow in Jesus. In this area, we have a committee called the education committee which is in charge of overseeing this ministry. That's the third area of ministry: discipleship.

4. The fourth area is Serving: helping out with different needs in the church, such as sanctuary setup, transportation, food preparation, building maintenance, printing Sunday bulletins, birthday celebrations, etc. We have the serving committee who's in charge of looking after these tasks and needs. That's the fourth area of ministry: serving.

5. The fifth area is Evangelism: to share the Gospel to those who have yet to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. For instance

- We organize events and programs to invite our friends to church
- We plan short term mission trips to Taiwan and plant the seeds of the Gospel in people
- We plan outreach activities and encourage brothers and sisters to participate in God's mission in the world, such as NW Harvest, or Operation Christmas Child, or many other different opportunities
- We support other mission organizations and missionaries through prayer and financial aid

We have the mission/outreach committee overseeing this ministry. That's the fifth area of ministry: evangelism.



So again, the five areas in which our church focuses on are: worship, fellowship, discipleship, serving and evangelism. And all these areas are summarized in our vision statement, showing the importance of the vision statement in the church. Let us continue to remind ourselves of who we are here at SFCC through this vision statement, especially as we are now in a time of transition. Despite current circumstances or challenges, remember that God's calling, vision, and hope for us remain the same; and God's desire for us is to continue to fix our eyes on Jesus, and keep on focusing on the tasks that we have been focusing on for years. May God bless the preaching and the teaching of His

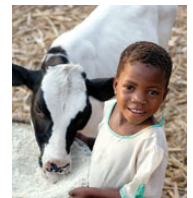


Christmas Shopping...What to Give?



Do you want to give a meaningful and life changing gift? How about

- \$25 for two small chickens,
- \$30 for five ducks,
- \$48 for three rabbits,
- \$75 for a goat??



Interested?



Oh no, we are not suggesting buying pets for your children. Instead, we are suggesting that you give this gift to families in third world countries through World Vision. These domestic animals provide for their daily needs. Your gift will help a poor family to improve their lives. This year, let God bless a family in need through your Christmas gifts.

For details, please visit www.worldvisiongifts.org

Share the true Spirit of Christmas

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Visit us at:

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台語禮拜 主日上午十時

English Service Sunday 12 noon

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Dear friends, as we enter winter, we are upon the end of another year. Do you feel the joy of Christmas in the air? Have you noticed the Christmas seasonal decorations in shopping malls, street corners and residential areas? As you are pondering on what Christmas presents to buy, are you also preparing your heart to welcome and receive God's present for us, Jesus Christ?

Beginning on November 29th, on each of the Advent Sundays, we will light one of the four candles symbolizing hope, peace, joy and love in our Sunday service to prepare for the commemoration of Jesus' birth. We welcome you to come join our worship service, especially on these Advent Sundays (11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20), as well as the Christmas Eve service on 12/24.

Together with a joyful and thankful heart, let us embrace the birth of Jesus Christ.



RECAP OF OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX

In the afternoon of Saturday, 11/21, many old friends and new friends of all ages came to SFCC for Operation Christmas Child. The tables in the 4 classrooms were loaded with all kinds of presents. Everyone worked together to decorate the shoe boxes with gift wrap, and then we filled each box with toys, school supplies, and other goodies. Some friends could not join us that day, and they packed shoe boxes at home and brought them to church the next day. Guess how many gift boxes we prepared this year?

The answer is 133. From shoe boxes to gift packages, these Christmas presents of love have been delivered to Samaritan's Purse (<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/index/>) These presents are on their way to be delivered into the hands of less fortunate children in poor areas of the world.

Thanks to everyone's love and overwhelming participation, our love will bring warmth and smiles to these precious children.



the Power of a Simple Gift

