

NewLife Lead Pastor - 2011

As the year has been coming to a close and I reflect on what the Lord has done this past year I am confident we (NewLife) are right where God wants us. As I have been praying and looking to the future and the year 2012, God has given me one verse for this year:

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24.15

We want the Revival of our Lord to come upon each of us, this church and spread throughout this community. This verse has spoken loudly about the revival that we would like to see. God must be the Master of our homes. We, at home, must be serving the Lord. That means as a family we must be drawing closer together in Bible reading, study and making our homes truly places that glorify the name of our Lord and Savior. If our homes are serving the Lord then the church will be serving the Lord.

Looking at the 5 purposes of the church and asking the question, "Are we fulfilling our purpose?" was asked of the Elder Board at the end of the year. Each of the 5 purposes are being fulfilled and incorporated in the life and activities of NewLife. The discussion with the Elder Board also included how we can improve and develop these areas in the life of the church. From this evaluation over the next couple of months you will be seeing new and exciting ministries start to continue to fulfill our purpose as a church.

We have a mission field that the Lord has brought to our door step. The Homeless outreach and the Single Mothers Outreach are areas that the Lord has given to us to serve. This past year was a great year with the homeless outreach they have been feed, clothed and cared for physically as well as spiritually with several accepting Jesus for the first time. NewLife has been partnering with the Single Mothers Outreach over the 2nd half of 2011; we have ministered to the ladies with a Luau, Thanksgiving dinner and helping with Christmas. We also have been helping with other activities that they have at their facilities. In both of these areas we will be serving the Lord greater and greater this coming year.

WHO IS NEW LIFE?

The Mission statement of New Life is "Love in Action" this is what makes us do what we do and why we do what we do. Jesus showed us His love when he came as the infant in that manger, and then ultimately went to Calvary to die on that old rugged cross and yes, rose on the third day to conquer death and offer us this Love in his salvation for us. Romans 6:4 tells us:

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

The Vision I have of New Life Assembly of God in Canyon Country, California is that we become the salt and light of Jesus to a people who so desperately need him. Practically meeting the needs of the community and share our God Story with them and leading them into the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior. Our Purpose Statements are:

1. We **Worship** to show Love is honoring God with our Lives.
2. We **Grow** to show Love is maturing in the Love and Knowledge of Christ.
3. We **Reach** to show Love is sharing Christ with our friends, family and neighbors.
4. We **Connect** to show Love is connecting with other believers in meaningful relationships.
5. We **Serve** to show Love is modeling Christ through acts of service.

Our Core Values are:

1. **Grace** – We minister in an atmosphere of freedom and acceptance based on God's unconditional acceptance of us! (*Romans 6:14, 12:3; Galatians 5:1*)
2. **Integrity** – Biblical integrity is reflected in living a life that is true to God, oneself and to others. (*Matthew 5:16; Romans 8:14; Philippians 2:15*)

- 3. Unity** – We strive to keep our entire church body informed, focused and enthusiastically moving in the same direction. (*John 17:22; Philippians 2:1-2; Ephesians 4:3-6*)
- 4. Excellence** – We believe that God is honored and His kingdom advanced through our best efforts. (*1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23*)
- 5. Families** – We believe that God put the family unite together to be the foundation block of our church and society. (*Genesis 2:23-24; Deuteronomy 14:26; Psalms 128:3-6; Psalms 133:1*)
- 6. Innovation** – We encourage and value new, creative ways of serving God. While our vision will remain unchanged, our methods need to always stay fresh and relevant. (*1 Chronicles 12:32; Matthew 9:17; 1 Corinthians 9:22*)

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

With all this being said the question must be asked “**What does all this mean and where are we going?**” We are laying the foundation for the great work that God has for New Life. We must be diligent to lay the foundation so that as the building gets built we know the foundation will be strong so the building will not just sink into the ground.

The foundation is being laid. In the near future you will be seeing discipleship classes, small groups to get connected, ministry training, and preparation for us as a church to "Experience God!"

We need people to step up into areas of ministry. If you are not serving (working) in the church, God has a place for you. Part of your walk with the Lord is serving His people and ministering. We have many areas to serve and many ministries which need to get started. Please see me about getting involved in the service of NewLife.

THE CHALLENGE:

#1 – By summer everyone in the church will bring someone to church who doesn't already attend another church. This means we must ALL start talking to our friends, family, neighbors and strangers about what Jesus is doing in your life. If we do this, we will grow. Do you need to update your “5”? Are you praying for them?

#2 – Everyone, from members to attendees, will be actively involved in small groups and serving in one of the ministries of NewLife.

#3 – Continue to seek the Holy Spirit and His will. We need to give the Holy Spirit room in our lives.

WHAT IS COMING?

Over the next couple of months we will have opportunities for people to get involved in discipleship and training to do ministry. The great commission tells us to go and make “Disciples” not just get people saved. Discipleship, training and opportunities to serve will start us on the path of completing the great commission.

New Small groups will be starting over the next couple of months, please look at these groups to see where you can get involved and connected with others at NewLife.

FINANCES

God is our provider! He has taken care of us. He will continue to take care of us!

Giving is not about paying the bills and having the ministry opportunities for the church. It is about our personal obedience to the Lord. He tells us that we are to give to Him our “First Fruits”. Our obedience to the Lord in this area is of great importance in the times that we are living in. When the money is flowing and everything is great, it is easy to give God his cut. But, in times like this when the bottom line is looking really thin and the bills are just piling up, we tend to cut areas out we see as non-essential. Giving to the Lord tends to drop. This is the time the Lord is looking to bless you the most for your obedience, because obeying when your back is up against the wall is the time that your faith in Him is truly being tested. The widow who gave the two copper pieces, today would be less than a penny, gave out of sacrifice, she gave all. The rich gave out of surplus. God asks for our obedience. He wants us to obey so he can bless us and use us to reach a world which so desperately needs Him. He asks for our “tithe” (this is 10%); God wants us to give to him that which he has given to us. By giving 10% or more you are putting your trust in him and being obedient to his word

I want to encourage you, in these tough times, be obedient. Give your first fruits. Malachi 3:10 tells us that we can test God in this area. Test him. Be obedient. Be Blessed.

BUILDING NEW LIFE

Many things have been happening in the process of getting our facilities ready so we can have this tool (facilities) to reach our community and fulfill the purpose of NewLife.

As of today Verizon Wireless has almost completed the installation of the cell towers in the church. As you can see as you enter the church and drive down Honby they added several architectural features which improve the look of our facilities.

Our project is currently under way. The modular building is in process; hopefully soon we will be opening the building for the children's ministries here at NewLife.

The parking lot plans are just getting finished in the city and will be hopefully in the near future we will be breaking ground on this project. The Building New Life project will be on a "Pay-as-WE-go" basis. We will not start a phase unless we have the funds in the bank to complete the project. Going into debt to build is not an option. So, what does that mean? **We need to raise funds to build!**

IN CLOSING

I want to say again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you over the past year. Jezanah and I are overwhelmed with the love and support of NewLife. This church is truly blessed with loving people, a God fearing leadership team, and we greatly appreciate each one of you.

Get ready! We are building the foundation in 2012! New Life is right where God wants us. We just need to buckle our seatbelts and hold on because the ride is about to start. It must start in your home!

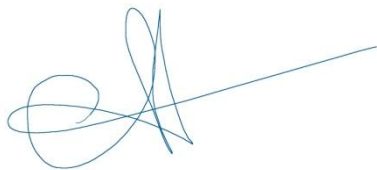
Remember the church verse is Colossians 1:10:

"Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better." (NLT)

Let's get to know God this year better than we ever have.

Thank you again.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Janiak', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Janiak