

STATE OF THE CHURCH Sept 25th, 2016

Metrics:

- Average monthly offerings through August: \$102,655
- Total annual giving will exceed budget. *Our fiscal year (FY) runs from Oct-Sept. FY2015-16 budget is \$1,204,629. Giving as of Sept. 18 is \$1,220,277.*
- Total attendance is up by 6.5%.
- Baptized 42

Other Noteworthy Accomplishments

- Refinanced our mortgage for \$20,000+ annual savings.
- Installed a long needed new roof at a cost of \$120,000. *From our reserve fund account.*
- Completed a 5 Year Strategic Plan that includes ministry advancements, staffing, campus and financial goals.
- Increased the Elder board from 5 to 6 non-staff members, along with a rotating time-out schedule that replaces one Elder/year so that our experience level is maintained.
- Launched our first one-on-one systematic discipleship program for new believers.

But our story is so much bigger than a year in review can describe

God's provision for Sunridge has been palpable for 27 years, so that we can say as the Psalmist, *We your people, the sheep of your pasture, will praise you for ever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise. Ps 79:13.* Our history is rich with people who were remarkably dedicated to the mission and calling God has given us. We have heroes of truly biblical proportion in our past. Today, we stand on their shoulders. In recent years, people have made huge sacrifices to see us survive. People have dedicated hours upon hours to see this church through. They have given in extraordinary fashion of their time, gifts and resources to stabilize Sunridge. Necessary foundational structures and policies have been reestablished so that we stand on solid ground. To God be the glory.

I sense we are now entering a new *generation* in our history. We are transitioning from survival mode to advancement. I have noted in the past that we expect to move through three phases over the next ten years: stability, momentum, and succession. It appears we are now emerging from stability to momentum. I think it's important to note this transition, because advancement has distinct challenges in comparison to survival.

Advancement brings the challenge of choice

Soldiers in a foxhole have one goal - to survive. But advancement provides an array of choices that couldn't be considered while in the foxhole. Some of those choices require acquiescing to other's choices that aren't our personal priority. Some of those choices bring fear. Advancement choices are why the Children of Israel hesitated as they drew close to Canaan, why Moses needed to stir them up to take possession of the land, and why Joshua challenged them to be strong and courageous. (Num. 14:3-4; 33:53, Joshua 1:7). It is time to advance and fully surrender to the mission God has given us.

The mission of Sunridge is to help people find and follow Jesus.

BIG GOALS FOR OUR MISSION THIS YEAR:

1. We are going to give our best effort ever in ministering to kids and students by transitioning Danny Sugimoto to full-time Middle School Pastor, and by hiring a full-time Children's Minister.

One of our core values states, "We emphasize ministry to children and youth." We are committing significant resources in order to be true to that statement.

By January 2017, we will have full-time staffing in High School, Middle School and Children's Ministries

2. We are expanding our outreach efforts across the ocean and across the street through the volunteer leadership of Matthew and Lisa Owens.

Matthew and Lisa joined our volunteer staff this summer as our Local and Global Partnership Directors. Under their leadership we've already begun reconnecting with our supported missionaries and forged the recent partnership with Team World Vision. Lisa Stewart remains our beloved Global Outreach Trip Coordinator.

We are increasing our outreach budget by 40% this year.

3. We are beginning to refresh and improve our campus with phase one of Renovate.



Phase one of *Renovate* includes:

- Completing the renovation in our multipurpose room.
- Refreshing our look in the first floor main hallways.
- Acquire plans for courtyards and playgrounds on campus.

One of our core values states, “We pursue community.” Constructing gathering spaces for adults will enable us to linger and connect with each other. Constructing playgrounds adjacent to those courtyards will allow us to do so and to know our where our kids are!

Buildings are spiritual too. In the Old Testament, The Temple was under constant restoration and care by skilled workers. (2Chron. 24:4 & 12) Also, besides being a more pleasant place to meet, our facility speaks volumes to those who come for the first time. I’m praying that the renovation of our campus is symbolic of the restoration we seek in our own hearts as well. (Ps. 85:4; Lam. 5:21; 1Pet. 5:10)

Our campus should say, “We were expecting you.”

4. We are asking God to stretch us in our stewardship in order to accomplish our mission.

The FY2016-17 General Fund Budget already includes:

- A plan to gradually set aside reserve funds equal to 3x’s monthly budget. (A 5-7 year goal)
- Adding 2 full-time ministers
- Increase to outreach budget of 40%

In addition to the General Fund budget of \$1.3 million we would like to raise an additional \$250,000 in our Capital Improvement Fund to finance phase one of Renovate.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- **Invite**

All of us have friends that need the gospel and a healthy church. When God gives you the opportunity to invite them or share your faith – take it. You have our guarantee that when your friend comes to church with you, we will continue to teach the bible in a humble, Christ-centered, understandable, uncompromising, and transformative way.

- **Serve**

Every Christian has been gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are all ministers in that sense. Invest your time and effort in serving at Sunridge. Find a place that fits your passion, skills and schedule – and make a difference. Join the life!

No matter what your age, you are part of our present, not just the future or our past. Find a place where your talents are best utilized and commit.

- **Give**

Give consistently - and even increasingly if God has blessed you in that way. In addition to your general fund offerings, consider prayerfully giving additionally toward Renovate. For more on how to give see your program at weekend services.

- **Pray**

1. We become an indispensable church.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Ro 10:14

2. We remain dependent on the Holy Spirit.

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. Ac 1:4

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Ac 1:8

Because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. 1Th 1:5

3. We remain a unified church

Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. 20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. John 17:11

4. We keep the main thing the main thing.

Heb 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.