
Strategies for evangelism & assimilation

Text

Introduction

This morning we spent our time in Isaiah 55. Our intention in this message was to make clear two things. How we view and how we do evangelism was its topic. The premise was: We cannot give what we do not have. The exhortation was: Let us, therefore, delight ourselves in the Lord. As we do this for our hearts we will do this for others; helping them see and savor Jesus Christ.

Outline

Tonight we want to take some time and survey the goals and strategies for evangelism and assimilation. To do this we thought it best to organize our time around Spreading the Gospel of God Ministries vision.

1. SGGM's mission – why we exist
2. SGGM's means – how we set out to accomplish the mission
3. SGGM's manner – ways of accomplishing the mission
4. SGGM's measure – ways to determine the mission's efficiency

SGGM's Mission

So let's begin with a look at SGGM's mission. The mission of our outreach and assimilation ministry at Clearcreek Chapel can be remembered by the 4 Cs.

SGGM exists to mobilize Clearcreek Chapel for creative, courageous, compassionate, Christ-reliant outreach. This "outreach" is defined in two ways; reaching out to our neighbors within our communities (i.e. evangelism) and reaching out to our guests within our church (i.e. assimilation).

We are striving to change our hearts so that we all are participating in reaching out to people. We aim to see more and more of us growing in the four Cs; that is, to become more creative in our outreach, to become more courageous in our reaching out to people, to become more compassionate to those to whom we are reaching out, to become more Christ-reliant when we are reaching out to people. When we take out from our mental billfold and pull out our mental picture of what God can do in and through this ministry, this is what we see: *An increase in focus on and fervor for Jesus Christ to where an unfeigned and un-*

forced freedom in lifestyle evangelism is the norm at Clearcreek Chapel. This is our vision. This is our mission. This is why we exist.

SGGM's Means

Next we want to glance at SGGM's Means; how we aim to realize the mission. Succinctly put, we aim to uphold and grow in the mission through:

1. Prayer
 - a. We know that "apart from Christ we can do nothing". We are utterly reliant upon Christ for everything. And so, increase in ongoing prayer is vital
2. Preaching
 - a. We also recognize that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ". Your Elders will strive to increase in "preaching the Word" and the Word is Christ.
3. Participation
 - a. We lastly understand that the Bible teaches us that we all are to be a part of making known the wonders of the gospel. Lifestyle ministry is the goal. Let us not procrastinate but rather participate in the privilege of sharing Christ with people.

SGGM's Manner

Now we want to talk about SGGM's Manner; particular ways of accomplishing the mission. I will divide this aspect up into two parts. The first part will talk about the goals of SGGM. These will be broader and a bit more conceptual. Then I will discuss strategies of SGGM. This part of the presentation will be practical, personal and exhortational. Here is where all of us fit in. Here is where a call to the church will happen.

First, SGGM's goals:

1. *To increase awareness over how we view and do evangelism.*
 - a. This morning's message was an effort to contribute to this goal. Messages from the pulpit, literature distribution, etc. are ways we work toward this goal.
2. *To witness an increase in attendance at CC's services.*

- a. We are not about a numbers game. We labor not to increase attendance for the sake of size merely. What this goal has in mind is simple. We believe the gospel and its empowering grace are enjoyed at the Chapel. We want to expose others to this banquet. More people in this environment is a good thing.
3. *To explore and employ better ways of follow up and assimilation.*
 - a. SGGM is broadening its vision. It now will include assimilation ministry (otherwise known as CAM = Chapel Assimilation Ministry). This ministry as you will see in a moment, is designed to assist the Chapel in warmly welcoming all people and helping them move from being curious about the Chapel to being committed in the Chapel.
 4. *To establish a regular fervent prayer meeting.*
 - a. Jack Miller, whose writings and ministry are significantly shaping my thought and life, pointed out something in one of Jesus' parables found in Luke 11:1-13. I've come to see that I and we need a type of praying that is characterized by "impudence"; a lack of concern with what others think of us, a boldness to approach God. This is a fervency that cares not about how we sound when praying but has a focus on God and desires more of God.
 5. *To effectively launch and care for 25 by 05; a 2005 church challenge.*
 - a. Lastly, with respect to goals, we come to a church challenge. SGGM sets out throughout 2004-05 to help us carry out intentional ministries with respect to evangelism and assimilation. What is "25 by 05; a 2005 church challenge"? Let's answer this question by moving now into strategies of SGGM.

How are we planning to realize the previously mentioned goals? SGGM's manner (or the way we aim to achieve goals) is as follows:

1. *A greater consistency between personally doing what I'm publicly preaching.*

- a. It is important that I am a pacesetter for the Chapel. I cannot lead where I've not been. Therefore, I'm currently in a nine-month discipleship program taught by a church-planting team in Philadelphia. Through this training I hope to become a better leader for you and a better witness for our Lord.
2. *More frequent ETS Workshops for personal growth in evangelism.*
 - a. SGGM sponsors 75 minute get-togethers to focus on the "how tos" of lifestyle evangelism. Topics like 1) overcoming fear of man 2) ways to turn casual conversations toward Christ 3) brainstorming over ways to serve unbelievers 4) how to use the gift of hospitality to further the gospel, etc.
 3. *Resuming SGGM Training program for particular growth in evangelism*
 - a. SGGM sponsors in-depth ways of growing in evangelism. This emphasis is for those who desire more particular growth in both evangelism and in discipling others. The curriculum is a mixture of Clearcreek Chapel, Desiring God, World Harvest Missions and Instruments of Change. The approach is personal time weekly with one of our disciplers.
 4. *Launching and managing 25 by 05; a 2005 Church Challenge*

The Church Challenge is for all of us and can be broken down into two parts. The first part is the Church Challenge is with respect to evangelism. The second part is with respect to assimilation.

With respect to evangelism

- a. *2 by 2 & 2 by you*
 - i. *2 by 2* is a monthly ministry of canvassing our neighborhoods through prayer and pamphlets reaching 2005 homes in 2005 (i.e. 167 homes ea. mo. = approx. 14 homes per team)
 - ii. *2 by you* is a yearly ministry of each family of CC in the course of 2005 bringing 2 families to CC as their guest
- b. *The Haystack*

- i. *The Haystack*, a term taken from a prayer gathering which launched the first protestant missionaries in 1806, is a weekly prayer meeting aimed at engaging God over the spreading of His fame. Meeting on Monday nights, we fervently pray for God to advance His gospel.
- c. *Adorning the Gospel*
 - i. A ministry to the unchurched experiencing miserable circumstances. That a love offering be taken to supply \$625.00 to this project is a primary way our congregation can participate.
- d. *Annual outreach events*
 - i. Our periodic evangelism through CC with an eye to seeing no less than 25 participants at each event. These events are the Warren County Fair and the '05 BBC.
- e. *Open Hearts / Open Homes*
 - i. A ministry of hospitality for those who do not have a biblical church home. This strategy is aimed at helping ourselves become more friendly neighbors. We are asking for 25 families over 2005 to host a meal for a family in your neighborhood.

With respect to assimilation

- a. *Koinonia Meal*
 - a. To provide a relaxed meal after AM service for members to help make attenders feel at home in the life of the Chapel
- b. Friday Night Fun
 - a. To provide at the Chapel interactive games for members to help make attenders feel at home in the life of the Chapel.
- c. Dinner for Two
 - a. To provide in the homes of members a comfortable evening for them to help make attenders feel at home in the life of the Chapel.
- d. Annual Pig Roast
 - a. To provide an outdoor activity for members to help make attenders feel at home in the life of the Chapel.
- e. Annual Church Picnic

Conclusion

SGGM's Measure

How are we to gage where we are with respect to objectives and goals. I'll close tonight with a look at the SGGM's Measure.

- ❖ Seen in desires (a desire is outside our control)
 - 25 family units as new members of CC in 05
- ❖ Seen in goals (a goal is within our control)
 - 25 clear presentations of the gospel to unbelievers
 - 25 CC families participating in *Open Hearts / Open Homes*; a ministry of hospitality (eg. A CC family invites a non-believing family over to their home for dinner)
 - 25 participants at Fair ministry
 - 25 participants with BBC (two hosting homes with approx. 10 for each team)
 - 25 different participants in Canvassing for Christ through 05
 - 25 givers of \$25.00 to a love offering for *Adorning the Gospel*