

Reviewing Where We've come from. Moving to our New Location.

Living Hope Church

Sun., Oct. 5th, 2008

Church plants have been compared to physical development in the womb leading up to birth.

First Trimester Baby develops a **nervous system...** Our pre-birth church needs to develop a **'Church Mind'**. **A Personality!**

Psalm 139: 13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

1. *The Church* is formed by God! A mystery – not known in the OT.
 - Eph.3: 2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

SO... Who Are WE? Who is Living Hope Church?

1 Corinthians

3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

12:13 For we were all baptized by [c] one Spirit into one body—

12:18 in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

The Scripture uses **several metaphors** to describe the identity of the Church:

1. Temple: A sacred dwelling. It speaks of quality. Belonging to God, not man.

The Church is God's place of localized dwelling! Not just buildings, etc. God dwells in US in a very special way! His Temple.

2. Field: An agricultural image of fruitbearing, production, quantity.

- Soils needing cultivation, watering, time to mature. Harvest.
- 1 Cor.3: 5What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8The

man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

3. Building: Workers employed to build upon. It has a Foundation.

- 1 Cor.3:10-15 10By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

4. Body: A living organism designed to give life, work, function, relate to the world.

- **The "parts" are knit together by God to grow & express the life of Christ within.**
 - A body expresses to the world, what is inside: heart, mind, will.
 - No one knows what we think how we feel...unless we can express it physically.
 - **We are the expression of Christ to the world.** An aroma of life or death. And whatever WE, the church, express – is what the world knows about Christ!
 - *This is why we are starting a new church in the north part of the town!*

Our Developmental task: · Mission · Values · Strategy

Living Hope Church

Mission: *What are we supposed to be doing? What is the reason God formed the Church?*

Our Mind!

*Demonstrating the love of Christ,
Leading Others to Follow Him.*

The Great Commands
And
The Great Commission

Q: = Why did God form the church? What reason did he knit us together?

- The Church is a unique creation by God, and has a specific mission! Make Disciples!
- Our mission statement is a combination of the Great Commands (Matt.22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matt.28:18-20). Both are required to fulfill our purpose.

Q: = What is a disciple? [Acts 11:19-26](#).

Q: = How do we make them?

Q: = Why is it important to demonstrate love? [John 13,34-35; 17:23](#)

Values:

Our Heart!

Who are we? Why do we exist? Biblical convictions that determine ministry.

- We first listed out the various values that were important to us, then reduced them to three concise phrases that were easy to remember by our people, and which they could unpack the specifics.

1: Connecting people to God

1. Bible Centered - Scripture is His message. = [Acts 20:32; Num.23:19; Heb.4:12-13](#)
> This is why we are reading through the NT as a church.
2. Prayer - Children in communication with their Father. [John 16:24; 15:7](#)
3. Meaningful Worship - Heart, head & will devoted to Him. = [Acts 2,4](#)
4. Discipleship & Equipping Members. - Growing, active, serving. = **Eph.4: 12**

- How do we equip/ build-up a Christian/ disciple?
- What kinds of service should a disciple be doing?

2: Connecting people to One Another

1. Fellowship - Healthy, loving relationships.
2. Community - Demonstrating the reality of God's reconciliation

- Carrying out the one-another's of the NT.

3: Connecting to our Community

1. Demonstrating the love of Christ to people, in practical ways
2. Sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, in our community

- ARK projects

Strategy: How we fulfill our Mission**Our Will.**

Our Purpose is our Strategy

Worship Services = *Connect People To God*

Community Groups = *Connect People To One another & To our Community*

Discipleship Groups = *Connect to God & to One Another*

- Our Values/ Purposes determine our Strategy; what we do & why.
- We are Mission/ Values driven.
- What we do must be guided by our identity, our DNA.
- Each ministry must answer the question: Are we demonstrating the love of Christ?
- Are we Connecting people to God, one another, the community?

End Goal: Being in passionate agreement with your core team about the identity of the church. *Can two walk together unless they be agreed?*

Second Trimester Baby develops internal organs...**Our Muscle!**

Your pre-birth church needs to identify '**Leaders**' who will function in accordance and be vigilant to guard the mission, values, and strategy of your church.

- You can't go to war with generals or soldiers that have different missions.
- "Leaders" in and of themselves are not enough. There are all kinds of leaders in the world. It takes leaders committed to God's Mission, values; with character- 1 Tim.3.
- Which muscle would you like to have weak – in your body? So with the Church.
- A church is only as strong as each MUSCLE functions. Every muscle is needed in the body!

End Goal: Know that others are working at making this body function with as much dedication as you are, having Co-laborers.

Third Trimester Baby develops hair. Fat, and lungs enlarge in preparation of entering the outside world. BIRTH!

- Your pre-birth church needs to prepare to meet the world.

SLIDE 16: Developmental tasks: Where we've come from preparing for our birth!

- Raised support, moved to FC - Aug.07
- Informational Gatherings - Sept.07
- Pre-launch Worship Services- Oct. 07 (We began meeting one year ago at HCA)
- ARK activities began - Dec. 07
- *Public Preview Service* - Jan.08
- Small Groups began - Feb. 08
- Mailings and handouts
- **Public Launch!** - Sept. 28, 08
- Move into New Building - Oct. 17th, 08

End Goal: Enough birth weight to sustain healthy future development for the church.

Move into New Building - Oct. 17th, 08

HOW it came about!

Saturday 27th -received email & called Tad Buonamici

- Tad wanted to help a church get started

Tuesday: Provisional Leadership Team met

- Hesitations: (1) Escalating rent. (2) Amount of work

Tad's response: "*I'll go ahead and paint & build the rooms.*"

- Plus: He built the stage, replaced skylights, put in sink, is painting the floor.

Friday: The leadership team met with him and agreed to rent the building.

Rent: Begin at \$1500, increase by \$75 / mo, a ceiling of \$3500 (about 25 mos from now)

Tad pays \$4200 / mo on the building.

- He is donating what we don't pay - to our church!
- This month - he donated \$2700 + all he paid to have the work done!
- *He had an offer to rent the building Thursday for \$4200!*

God has given us an opportunity to grow Living Hope Church! Our next step!!

God has given us an opportunity to grow!

How will we pay the extra rent? *GROW! It's what church plants do!*

Example: Ave. income in Fort Collins = \$45,000

1 new family, giving 4% to the Church = \$150 / mo

1 new family every other month = will pay for rent increases.

1 new family every month = rent + utilities, etc.

Q: Can we work & trust God for 6-12 new families / yr

What is a church plant supposed to do?? Grow, right!

Immediate needs to get rolling...

1. Clean the building and the floor – Tuesday, to be painted Wednesday
2. Begin moving things – Thur-Sat.
3. 100 Chairs by Friday
4. 6-8 Coffee-shop style tables and chairs
5. Several couches, loveseats, easy chairs
6. Lighted sign above the door outside
7. Refrigerator and stove

Near future needs...

1. Flooring: carpeting and vinyl flooring
2. 50 more chairs
3. New people! *At least one new family / mo.*