

The last couple of months I have written about how Jesus builds His church. Matthew 16:18 says, “*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”

I would like to this, month begin to spell out what I believe Jesus is doing in this church right now for 2016. First of all I want to say thank you to some folks who have helped us as a church in a huge way to identify areas of need and concern. From identifying what we need to do better, they have also come up with ways to help, “fix what’s broke.” That’s one of the reasons we came up with the name “Information and Solutions Team.” It’s been one attempt to improve communications at our church. Pastor Jerry, Kate Donaldson, Roger Burton, Ellen Plaugher, Jerry Hooper, Carol Blake and Steve Smith make up the team. We have not completed our work yet but I want to at least give a progress report. I’d like to identify some priorities and some action points.

First we exist as the body of Christ to Glorify God: all we do must do this.

Second we need to live out The Great Commandment to love God and Love our Neighbor. Matthew 22:37-40 *And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

Third we are commissioned by Jesus to Make Disciples. Matthew 28:18-20, *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

That involves 1) being witnesses, Acts 1:8 says “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” 2) being a disciple - follow Jesus and 3) making disciples-leading people to faith in Christ and “teaching them to observe all that I (Jesus) have commanded you.”

These are our priorities and a part of our DNA as the body of Christ.

Some action points in living that out are as follows. 1) Maintain clear direction and purpose 2) Search out and confirm the will of God 3) Maintain accountability to each other 4) Agree on strategic plans and assign responsibilities 5) Define a process of follow up and follow through 6) Build up fellowship in all we do: a) spend time together b) manage conflict biblically in a timely manner 7) Keep communications clear: a) speak with the right person right away b) ask questions at the correct source c) identify clear expectations.

We’ve still got work to do but this is a start in getting healthy. Please pray with us in this process!!

For His Glory,
Pastor Mark