

## YEAR IN REVIEW

WILLIS 12/18/11

Mt 5:13-16

As we shared a few weeks ago **truth is an eternal trust given to us to steward through the generations of time.** Understanding that, we have been those who have always tried to position ourselves for maximum understanding, application and increase.

- To help facilitate that it has been our practice to build each year on the foundation of a theme. The Vision Banquet is for the purpose of announcing the theme...then the final Sunday of the year has been for the purpose of rehearsing the theme.
- 8 months of 2011 was spent in a verse by verse study of the Book of Ephesians where spiritual growth was our focus. There is no way I can really rehearse this study other than to say CCK is a community for those who want to grow...
- Growing up into the stature which belongs to fullness of Jesus Christ is the heart cry of this congregation and the central issue that keeps Christians vibrant and Christianity significant.
- **The vibrancy of the Christian is tied to our fullness of Jesus Christ; the significance of Christianity is tied to our consistency of overflow.** To lose either is to lose it all.

Our theme for 2011 was “Overflow.” The essence of our focus has been from 2 Kings 7 where the lepers said, “What God has done in our midst is too good of a thing for us to keep to ourselves.” We began the year by sharing a synopsis of our 25 year journey together:

- **The first 10-15 years were spent on research and development.** God was announcing the vision, defining the systems and building the team.
- **The second 10 were spent on facilities and manufacturing.** The Lord was enlarging the tent, building the model, reproducing the vision.
- **The next 10-15 years will be spent on export and distribution.** He will be building distribution centers for the purpose of overflow...exporting the truth He has established.
- 25 years ago the Lord began with upreach. He then took us to inreach. Now He comes to metastasize it all in outreach, all three must be seen as one aspect of a Church on mission. **Upreach is the fuel; inreach is the vehicle and outreach is the destination.**

Jim and Kelsey captured the heart of what we are saying so beautifully in the signs for the year. Pr5:16 describe them so well. **“Let your fountains be dispersed abroad; rivers and waters in the streets.”**

- 

If you  
l o o k  
closely  
you can  
see the  
overflow  
coming  
up and  
out of  
t h e  
building.  
A s i t  
flows out  
it is not  
destructi  
o n i t  
brings...  
it brings  
l i f e ...  
moveme  
nt...chan  
ge

- 

Flowers  
...green.  
The flow  
of life is  
springin  
g u p  
from the  
building  
but not  
b e i n g  
containe

d in the building. Everything that is happening within is overflowing so it can flow to others without. **Every obstacle you see becomes a place of life not obstruction.**

•

Overflow means success is measured more now by what happens outside the building rather than what happens

in or  
what is  
happenin  
g inside  
t h e  
building  
is for the  
purpose  
o f  
making  
us more  
o f a  
success  
outside.  
(Doesn't  
minimiz  
e the  
inside;  
j u s t  
focuses  
it)

So we shared a message entitled "The Church has Left the Building." It was a phrase made popular by Elvis for the purpose of dispersing the lingering crowd. CCK is a community who loves to linger and may we never lose that quality.

•

**Comm  
nity and  
t h e  
depth of  
"Koinon  
i a" i t  
brings is  
o n e o f  
t h e  
virtues  
t h a t  
m a k e**

**C C K  
unique.  
Now we  
a r e  
s e e i n g  
w h a t  
has been  
given as  
a t o o l  
f o r  
outreac  
h must  
never be  
celebrat  
ed as a  
troph y  
o f  
consum  
ption.**

Jesus said it well in our text this morning:

- “If you lose your saltiness how will people taste godliness?”
- “God is not a secret to be kept. We are going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.”
- “Keep an open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others you will prompt people to open up to God.”

At last count we added up at least 50 different opportunities for overflow the people of CCK had in 2011. We are a people in transition. We are moving for a privately held company to one who is going public. The Church is leaving the building and serving the community.

- When a privately held company goes public it must reposition. **Overflow means what has been “privately held” now gets “publically traded.”** We have been blessed to be a blessing.

- One of the first things that happened to us as we went public was we received a fuller revelation of compassion. We saw how compassion was the heart beat of Jesus. Compassion was the defined quality that made the Good Samaritan good.
- **Before we can have a more complete understanding of overflow we must first experience a fuller revelation of compassion.** Overflow is a positioning of the heart that takes us from concern for others into compassion for others.
- Compassion is the virtue that produces action. Compassion the virtue that validates us for overflow. **The affirmation of the Good Samaritan proves compassion is the greatest qualification for ministry not gifting or position.**
- We are most like Christ when we are compassionately caring for others.

Mt5 makes our expression of compassion and overflow so simple. In the Message it says:

1. **Keep an Open House:** Bring people in (how many people have been to Paul and Annie's) when you bring someone into your home you bring them into your heart.
2. **Be Generous With Your Lives:** Be generous with time, generous with your heart.
3. **Open Up to Others and You Will Prompt Them to Open Up to God:** Compassion is simply a decision of the will to be interrupted.

The result of these three actions taking root in our behavior is we become missional...not just those who do missions but those who have become missional...lifestyle not event.

1. **Becoming missional is interacting with everyday life as a witness.** Sharing the good news, being the good news...
2. **Becoming missional is becoming sent ones.** Everybody becoming Missionaries. Going to those in need rather than just expecting those in need to come to us.
3. **Becoming missional is embracing our role as Ambassadors.** Getting involved relationally enough to become answers not just speak words.
4. **Becoming missional is taking seriously the mandate to love our neighbor.** Greatness is defined by love long before it is defined by accomplishment.

Micah gives us the operational mindset of the missional people. In Micah 6:8 he says, "He has told you O man what is good and what the Lord requires of you...do justice, love mercy and walk humbly..." So we spent some time developing this Christ like virtue of mercy.

- **Mercy is the participation of man in the divine nature of God.** While compassion is the demonstration of love felt; mercy is the motivation of love felt. Compassion is what I do to express my love; mercy is why I express it.
- Mercy is what great men and women are made of. Consequently the Lord says “love justice and let mercy be your first concern.” Mercy is not the opposite of justice; mercy is the application of justice.
- **Intimacy with God will always produce mercy toward man.**

Lk 6:36 “Be merciful just as your Father in merciful.” Just as your Father” means:

- **Mercy that doesn’t withhold forgiveness.** Mercy means we forgive 70x7. We never stop forgiving; never stop showing mercy. Unforgiveness is the elevating of justice above mercy.
- **Mercy that is without judgmentalism.** Mercy doesn’t mean God doesn’t judge, it simply means even when judging, mercy is His first concern. Mercy triumphs judgment but it doesn’t eliminate it.
- **Mercy that feels the pain of another.”** Mercy is not detached or uncaring. Mercy feels in the manner God feels and acts in the manner God would act.
- **Mercy that demands holiness.** Mercy is not the absence of holiness; mercy is the manner in which we obtain holiness.

“Overflow” begins with a disposition of the heart. Mercy is the disposition of a heart ready to overflow. Grace is the kindness that makes the overflow effective. **Though we are coming to the end of the year we are not coming to the end of our Overflow.**

- Overflow is a theme that will continue on into 2012 and into the years to come.

Thank you for the manner in which you have embraced this theme and given of yourselves in the overflow to others. People are being saved and added to the Church as a result so we are seeing the fruit of your labor.