



Honoring God by Living Like Jesus
Growing • Connecting • Sharing

November 2011

Hi Everyone!

As a member/attendee of Emmanuel Faith, you've heard me talk a lot over this past year about our church Mission statement: "*Honoring God by Living Like Jesus.*" We studied it together for nine weeks in the spring, where we discovered that it's the primary reason we exist as a local church. God is glorified as we grow in our love and knowledge of Him, and imitate His Son. The reason for the focus on our Mission is that your church leaders sensed the Holy Spirit's direction to evaluate all of our ministries to see just how effective we've been in actually accomplishing it.

We were both thrilled and challenged by what we learned. We're thrilled with the fact that so many are actively **growing** in their heart's love for the Lord, knowledge of His word and its daily application in their decision-making. Others are **connecting** in life sharing groups at EFCC which are modeled after Acts 2:42 where the first disciples "*were continually devoting themselves to . . . fellowship.*" We envision the day when every person associated with our church has a group of friends with whom he or she can "do life together." **Sharing** also is taking place as individuals use their spiritual gifts and ministry passions to serve within our local body, and also take the gospel message out into the community and world. God has been doing great things this past year!

However, our evaluation also revealed that we have a long way to go in "*living like Jesus.*" Families continue to struggle under the myriad of pressures experienced in this economy and culture. We've seen marriage relationships breakdown and rebelliousness increase; the enemy continually seeks out those he can "deceive and destroy." But we know that the power of the Lord is greater! Therefore, we continue to pray and trust that He will build His church in and through us.

And that's exactly what He's been doing. Let me give you just one example:

Recently, one of our staff members (Cyndie Evans) received a phone message from Teresa. Her voice sounded a bit frantic, saying she needed to find a specific church. Cyndie called her back and was amazed by what she heard.

Several years ago, Teresa started to come to the weekly dinners our Homeless Ministry serves for the needy in our community. She was desperate, hungry, living on the streets, and shooting dope. Teresa heard the Word of God taught at the dinner, but was stubborn and refused to respond. She eventually ended up in rehab, where one of our homeless ministry volunteers visited and gave her a Bible.

Teresa soon quit taking drugs, but still was living in sin. A few years later, Teresa came to know the Lord and was baptized. She has been clean for many years, is now married, owns a home in Apple Valley, and is serving the Lord with her church's homeless ministry!

Teresa told Cyndie that the Lord had just been urging her to call EFCC, to thank the Homeless Ministry for reaching out to a drug addict and changing her life, giving her a purpose and in her words, "making this life I am living now, possible."

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Emmanuel Faith Community Church

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This story just illustrates how *Living Like Jesus* brings great honor to God. Please pray that more lives like Teresa's will be transformed to the glory of God. We know that we cannot do this on our own. As Pastor Hal Seed said in his recent message during our Community Outreach Conference, "*Emmanuel Faith's best days are in front of us.*" I firmly believe that, but it will happen only with the Lord's help and guidance!

One other significant blessing comes to mind as I think about this past year. When other churches have had to lay off staff, reduce their ministry outreach and even shutter their doors, we have been allowed to continue our outreach in every department. So "thank you" for your generosity to the Lord's work.

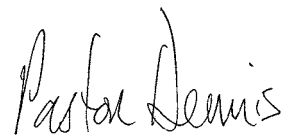
Looking ahead at the remainder of our current fiscal year (which ends on March 31, 2012), I wanted to give you a brief look at our specific financial needs for your prayerful consideration as we draw close to year-end, and prepare for another year of *honoring God by living like Jesus*. As we look ahead, Lord willing, we plan to deploy new training and outreach strategies that will allow us to reach even more people with the gospel. Here's what needs to happen for us to get there:

- In November and December, our **General Fund**, which covers the salaries, program budgets, and costs related to maintaining and equipping our facilities, is budgeted to receive 23% of our operating funds for the whole year. In order to meet our budget and continue operating as a healthy, growing church body, we need to receive **\$1,294,000** from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011.
- Our **Outreach Ministries Fund** (Global and Community Outreach combined) helps to support to some 55 missionary families, along with assistance we provide to local community ministries. We need **\$283,866** from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 to finish the year strong for our overall outreach efforts.
- Praise the Lord, our **Building Fund** debt has been reduced down to just under **\$109,714!** Now that Mission Hills Church has moved into self governance in San Marcos, and assumed half of the remaining debt, we hope to pay the rest off by the end of 2011! All donations to the Building Fund are used to pay down the debt principle.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. As you give year-end gifts to ministries that are close to your heart, please prayerfully consider a gift to Emmanuel Faith. We look forward to 2012 with great excitement and anticipation for what God will do in and through us!

May you and your family be blessed this holiday season.

Your Pastor,



Dennis

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