

EVERY LEADER IN THE SAN BERNARDINO REGION CAN MOVE FROM BUILDING WALLS TO BUILDING BRIDGES

“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:13,14)

Ministry in the NOW PERTAINS TO WHERE WE, AS THE CHURCH, SEE OURSELVES IN RELATION TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

Will we remain outside of the community inviting people in, or will we go to our communities, seeking to be a transforming agent?

The church is called to be separate in lifestyle but never called to be isolated from the people it seeks to influence.



NOW

HELP OUR MEMBERS MOVE FROM PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AND SPECULATION TO VALID INFORMATION

“And they said unto me, the remnants that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.” (Nehemiah 1:3)

Ministry in the NOW PICTURES OUR “MISSION FIELD” AND OUR “MISSION FORCE.”

Armed with accurate information, we can determine best how to go forward under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Accurate information was central to Nehemiah’s prayers and plans to restore a broken wall and a broken people. His burden to transform the city came from accurate information. We, too, need correct information about the real needs of our community as well as the resources required to meet those needs.



FROM ENCOURAGING SAN BERNARDINO REGION SAINTS TO ATTEND THE SERVICE TO EQUIPPING SAN BERNARDINO REGION SAINTS FOR WORKS OF SERVICE. ENGAGE... ENGAGE ENGAGE!!!

“It is (God) who gave some to be...pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service...” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Ministry in the NOW SETS GOALS TO MOVE BEYOND THE AVERAGE CHURCH WHERE 20% OF MEMBERS ARE “ACTIVE”.

Ministry opportunities must be broad enough to engage the energies and passions of a larger percentage of members in the church.

The process of mobilizing members into active ministry starts by “articulating clearly and regularly a theology of ‘every-member ministry’...From the pulpit, in classes, by word of mouth, it must be communicated that every layperson is a minister in one way or another and that the goal of the kingdom through ministry is finding needs and meeting them as people come to know Christ.”

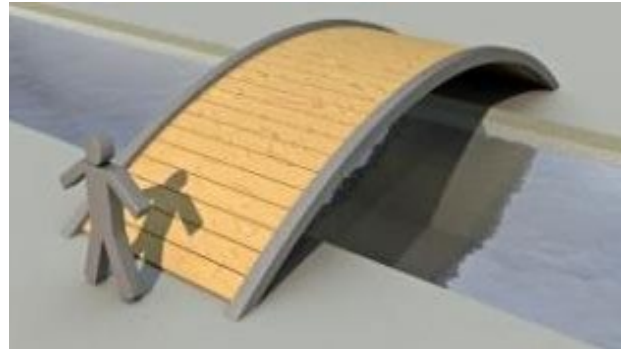


FROM “SERVE US” TO “SERVICE”: MOVING FROM AN INWARD TO OUTWARD FOCUS IN THE NOW

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give...”
(Mark 10:45)*

In the Ministry of NOW, THE POWER OF THE CHURCH IS NOT MERELY IN THE NUMBER OF CHURCHES OR THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

Together, as a church we are called to “PREACH THE GOSPEL and meet the needs of the world.” There is tremendous growth and healing as we serve others. Maybe this is what Isaiah had in mind when he penned God’s words to his people in [58:6-8].



What if churches settled for nothing less than 100% of members engaged at some level of meaningful ministry to their community? People (or small groups) could choose their field and level of engagement from once a week to once a month, once per quarter to once a year, but non-involvement would not be an option.



A CHALLENGE TO EVERY SAN BERNARDINO REGION LEADER & CHURCH..... TRANSITION FROM CONDEMNING THE CITY TO BLESSING AND PRAYING FOR THE CITY

“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

Ministry in the NOW CEASES ON OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPACT SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY. PASTORS AND CHURCHES ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO BRING BLESSINGS TO A CITY AND SPEAK PEACE TO TROUBLED SITUATIONS.



Jeremiah (29) gives instructions on how to live as aliens in a foreign land. For too long, the church has often been positioned as adversaries to our communities. The monolithic church has stood from afar and lobbed in pontific salvos condemning the city and those who are trying to serve it. Maybe it is time we began blessing the city by blessing those who have given themselves to the city!

