



2nd ANNUAL STATE OF THE CHURCH MESSAGE

"Up 'Till Now... & To Come"

1 Samuel 7:1-14
January 5, 2014

Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!" 1 Samuel 7:12 (NLT)

The Report

- ✓ Israel Had Turned Away
- ✓ They Repented and Returned to the Lord
- ✓ God Answered Their Prayers

The Result

- ✓ Their Enemies Were Defeated
- ✓ Their Lands Were Restored
- ✓ There Was Peace in the Land

The Reflection - Up Until Now...

Our Ebenezer Stones – What the Lord Has Done!

| | 2012 | 2013 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Baptisms | 27 | 28 |
| Total New Members | 80 | 76 |
| Worship (Total) | 184 | 270 |
| LifeGroups | 121 | 184 |
| Easter Sunday | 157 | 450 |
| Wednesday Nights | 147 | 168 |
| Total Offerings | \$400,021 | \$589,635 |
| Parking (Cars) | 106 | 125 |

The Response: What Is to Come...

CONNECT:

- ✓ Plan on Being in Worship Every Sunday & Get Connected to a LifeGroup TODAY
- ✓ Invite someone to join you @ Petal FBC – Don't stop asking!
- ✓ Join us for Family Friendly Wednesday Nights & 1st Super Sunday Nights
- ✓ With a Ministry for your Age Group: Preschool / Children/ Students / College & Career / Adults / Sr. Adults

GROW

- ✓ Grow deeper in your personal walk - Spend time reading through the Word of God this year, spend more time in prayer, scripture memory, fasting, etc. THIS IS KEY!! SEE THE READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR PLAN
- ✓ Would you pray like never before – The power is found on our knees and we must do more of this!
- ✓ OutLive Your Life – A 2 Year Giving/Growing Emphasis we kicked off this past May. Continue to be faithful in your giving and for those who have joined us since then, we encourage you to grab a commitment card and join us in giving sacrificially so we complete this ambitious OutLive Your Life Plan

SERVE

- ✓ Help serve Petal Primary School that we have adopted (Special Meals, Being a Mentor, special projects)
- ✓ Help Complete the Hensarling Home
- ✓ Help with upcoming Church Workdays
- ✓ Prepare/Serve Food to William Carey Students
- ✓ Find out More About Going on a Mission Trip
- ✓ Find your place to serve at our Annual Ministry/Missions Far on Sunday, February 23rd or even before!!
- ✓ Helping with Kidz Extreme June 1-5, 2014

ANNUAL STATE OF THE CHURCH MESSAGE

“Up ‘Till Now...& To Come”

1 Samuel 7:1-14

January 5, 2014 AM Service

The Report

- ✓ The people of Israel had been unfaithful but God had been faithful.
- ✓ They returned to the Lord with all their hearts, they repented and turned away from their false gods and directed their hearts to him and pledged to serve Him alone
- ✓ The Lord answered their prayers and the prayer of Samuel and delivered them from the hand of their enemy – the Philistines - notice they were still afraid – that is normal and human, but Samuel continued to pray and then brings a sacrifice to the Lord and as he is doing that the Lord thundered with a great voice that confused them so that they were routed by the Israelites

1 Sam 7:12 Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!" NLT

The Results

- ✓ The Philistines were defeated and subdued and didn't come in the border of Israel anymore – and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel
- ✓ The cities that had been lost were restored and even territory
- ✓ There was peace

The Reflection – Up Until Now...

The Lord has helped us up to this point – is what the Lord has done – not what we have done! Now certainly we have a part to play just as the Israelites did, but in the end the Lord defeated their enemy. The Lord has done these great things here @ Petal FBC and no man or woman gets the glory or the credit! It is great to stop and look back and see what the Lord has done this past year! It is amazing to see.

Let's look at these Ebenezer Stones – What the Lord Has Done

- ✓ The Lord has added 80 new members in 2012 and 76 New Members in 2013 – 28 By Baptism 45 By Letter/Statement

- ✓ We have seen our LifeGroup attendance continue to grow this year with from 121 last year to 184 52 % Growth
September – December – Average was 205 compared to January – April was 177 – that’s a 22% increase just this year!!!
- ✓ We have seen the Worship average increase from 130 in 2011 to 168 in 2012 to 239 in 2013 42% increase over last year
We saw 184 total in the building last year compared to 270 in the building in 2013 which is a 47% Increase
Our Preschool extended Time (During Worship) has grown from 7 in 2011 to 22 in 2012 – to 31 in 2013 – that’s a 43% Growth
(We have added chairs to keep us at the 80% capacity)
- ✓ Even more amazing to compare 2011 (September – December) 122 in Worship to (September – December) 2012 of 196 to 2013 of 252 a 29% Growth. 13 Sundays we had over 300 in the building
- ✓ On Easter Sunday we saw over 450 people here in the building!!
- ✓ Trunk or Treat with well over 350 people here!
- ✓ We also seen over 140 Families visit our Church this year that filled out Connection cards with many more who didn’t.
- ✓ Family Friendly Wednesday Nights have grown too! We averaged 147 in 2013 and in 2014 we averaged 169
- ✓ Our Offerings have also continued to increase in incredible ways! We just saw the largest general fund offering in the history of the church @ over \$52,000! We have taken in over \$189,000 more than last year in total giving.
- ✓ We launched OutLive Your Life Emphasis in May to help us finish several projects including the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen with dreams of others and helping pay the monthly note of just over \$2 million – We have seen a total giving of \$136,091 this year!
- ✓ Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions was \$3213 up from \$3,025 and Lottie Moon was once again the largest in the history of the Church @ \$20,704 compared to just over \$14,058 last year! Blew our

goal of \$18,000 out of the water. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Mission in 2012 was \$1,285 and 2013 was \$7,585

- ✓ Parking - Cars average is 108 cars per week in 2012 and was 125 in 2013 Our parking lot only has 106 total spaces so we are already out of paved parking. Many of you park on the grass Thanks for doing that!
- ✓ You also gave 100 boxes to Operation Christmas child last year and doubled it to 200 boxes this year! Gave 130 plus items for Thanksgiving Baskets compared to 100 last year. Adopted 20 Foster Children up from 13 the previous year.
- ✓ Our Preschool, Children and Student Ministries have experienced record growth as well.
- ✓ **Quick Highlights**
 - Hosted our 1st Ministry/Missions Fair in February
 - Tornado Disaster Relief – our Church being the staging for Feeding Unit and serving in our community – leading to a group of people being trained in SBC Disaster Relief
 - It also led to our continuing Partnership with Mt Vernon Missionary Baptist Church and Bro Carl Burkett
 - Family Emphasis in January and also in September-October culminating in our Resolution Sunday with well over 80 families/individuals committing to be Men/Women of Resolution
 - Our Message Series of What on Earth Am I Here For, The 3 C's of Easter, Lord Use Me, Summer in the Psalms, and The Greatest Number of All Times in John 3:16
 - Sr Adult/Student Valentine Banquet and group to Sr Celebrators Conference in TN
 - 1st International Mission Trips to Haiti with 8 people and 2 to Indonesia – plus in 2013 we already have 25 signed up to go to Haiti in 2014, 2 to Indonesia & more as we set up those 1st two initial trips
 - Helping to send Lindsey Kelley to Canada for 4 months to serve with NAMB Church Plant
 - Finish and then Occupying our Fellowship Hall for the 1st time
 - Deacon Ministry Restarted with 11 Active Deacons currently serving and a relaunch of our Deacon Family Ministry

- Record Breaking Group to MFuge in Nashville
- Launched Starting Point – Our Class 101 for new members
- Launch of our Worship Celebration Choir
- Feeding Petal School Teachers & Football Team
- Completed another LifeGroup Room that was a storage area and launched 3 new LifeGroups
- Our 20/20 Vision 11 Member Team was launched and met several times this year and meeting this year to help develop and seek God’s face for the vision/direction of our Church to get us to the year 2020
- Hiring our next full time staff member – Chris Robbins
- Adopting Petal Primary and the unreached people group Sanggau Sekadau

And not only is He what He has done but the connection can be made that the Lord has done that up till now and will continue to do so if we walk hand in hand with Him, seek His face, and follow His clear call and direction for our Church Family!

There is still much to be done, many people yet to be reached, ministries that need to be started, new groups birthed, buildings to be completed, lives to be changed and the list goes on. Let me just highlight a few of them by focusing on 3 words for the year. Those 3 words are...

The Response – What is to Come

Connect

- ✓ Invite others to come to Worship and experience what you have!
Introduce them to others – get them to come to guest reception area.
Encourage them to get connected to a LifeGroup
- ✓ Get connected yourself to a LifeGroup if you are not! Everyone needs to be connected – absolutely vital and essential! **(Sign up Today – go back to the LifeGroup Table – all our leaders are there and ask questions and find one that will work for you!!)**
- ✓ New LifeGroups – we will be birthing new ones throughout the year – keeping the circle open – have regular fellowship opportunities where you can easily invite guests to come in a non-threatening environment.
- ✓ Invite someone to join you @ Petal FBC – Don’t stop asking!

- ✓ Watch for Guests or people you don't know – introduce yourself – giving ourselves permission to not know someone and ask! Make room for people in the Sanctuary – sit more towards the front and save the back seats for guests that come in late!
Make room for guests by continuing to park on the grass and leaving the closest spaces open for our guests.
- ✓ Join us for Family Friendly Wednesday Nights & 1st Super Sunday Nights
- ✓ With a Ministry for your Age Group: Preschool / Children/ Students / College & Career / Adults / Sr. Adults
- ✓ Easter Sunday – April 20th – Bring a Friend Day – perfect time to invite them – Our Goal: 500 people here – largest crowd ever! (Praying about doing 2 services to make sure we have enough chairs)
- ✓ Be a part of the 1st Super Sunday Nights – all different and all specifically designed to accomplish something different than we do any other time of the week.

Grow

- ✓ Grow deeper in your personal walk with the Lord in new ways – spend time reading through the Word of God this year, read through Bible this year spend more time in prayer, scripture memory, fasting, etc. **THIS IS KEY!! SEE THE READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR PLAN**
- ✓ Would you pray like never before – cannot stress this enough!! The power is found on our knees and we must do more of this!
- ✓ OutLive Your Life – A 2 Year Giving/Growing Emphasis we kicked off this past May. Continue to be faithful in your giving and for those who have joined us since then, we encourage you to grab a commitment card and join us in giving sacrificially so we complete this ambitious OutLive Your Life Plan (Regular Tithes and Offerings)
- ✓ Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions – Whatever It Takes – Our Goal: \$10,000 – One Day Giving – April 20th – Easter Sunday

Serve

- ✓ Our goal is not to be just busy for the sake of being busy or doing something, but being active with a purpose, to see where God is at work and go there and be a part! Let's be intentional!

- ✓ Mission/Ministry Team – will be reformed and adding folks to the team to get us involved in MS and North America and furthering our efforts here in Petal and of course to the ends of the earth.
- ✓ Help serve Petal Primary School that we have adopted (Special Meals, Being a Mentor, special projects)
- ✓ Help Complete the Hensarling Home
- ✓ Help with upcoming Church Workdays
- ✓ Prepare/Serve Food to William Carey Students
- ✓ Find out More About Going on a Mission Trip
- ✓ Find your place to serve at our Annual Ministry/Missions Fair on Sunday, February 23rd or even before!!
- ✓ Helping with Kidz Extreme June 1-5, 2014
- ✓ Places of Service – Find Your Place to Serve right here in our Church – numerous ways you can serve. Find your SHAPE. – On Sunday, February 23rd – we will host our 2nd annual Missions/Ministry Fair where we all have all the ways and places where you can serve others!
- ✓ Look for ways to serve – come in with the attitude of not how can someone serve me, what will this church do for me? but instead how can I serve and what can I do for my church family?

Oh Church Family – if we will pray, if we will believe, if we will put our feet and our hands to the work that He will call us to – great and awesome things He will do in us and through us to reach the city and surrounding areas! The question is will we pray, we will step out in faith, will be a fan or a follower in 2013? Will our Church be full of fans or followers? I want to make a huge impact and difference right here and even to the ends of the earth? Do you? God wants to do more – will we be His vessels?