Weekly Schedule

Wed, Jan 13th (Mesquite)	Ladies Prayer @ Parsonage (7 PM)
Fri, Jan 15th (Rowlett)	Fasting Prayer @ Sabu & Bindhu's res. (10 AM)
Fri, Jan 15th (Metro)	Impact Meeting @ Metro (7 PM)
Sat, Jan 16th (Metro)	Fasting Prayer @ Metro 1st Session (10:30 AM - 1 PM) 2nd Session (2 PM - 4 PM) 3rd Session (5 PM - 7 PM)

Words of Wisdom

"Hope shines brightest when the hour is darkest. Hope motivates when discouragement comes. Hope energizes when the body is tired. Hope sweetens while bitterness bites. Hope sings when all melodies are gone. Hope believes when evidence is eliminated. Hope listens for answers when no one is talking. Hope climbs over obstacles when no one is helping. Hope endures hardship when no on is caring. Hope smiles confidently when no one is laughing. Hope reaches for answers when no one is asking. Hope presses toward victory when no one is encouraging. Hope dares to give when no one is sharing. Hope brings the victory when no one is winning."

-John Maxwell from Think on These Things

Prayer for the Nations: The Gambia (Africa)*

- The Gambia is a long narrow country on the west coast of Africa, surrounded on the north and the south by Senegal.
- This small country is really dependent on the peanuts it grows, which are sold to other countries to make peanut butter, oil and sometimes even paint. Tourism is another big money spinner, bringing 91,000 visitors a year.
- The Gambia is a desperately poor country. 80% of the population work on the land and many young men have left their villages and come to the capital Banjul looking for work.
- The majority of Gambians are Muslim – but few churches and missionaries have any contact with them. Pray that more Muslims, from all different ethnic groups, will have the opportunity to hear the gospel.
- Pray that Gambian Christians can be encouraged and trained to lead and disciple others.
- Some people have heard the gospel for the first time in prison – pray for those who have become Christians, that they can find supportive communities and churches.

** http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country.php?country_id=74*

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of God

Celebrating the Presence of God
Demonstrating the Love of God
Communicating the Word of God
Educating the People of God

January 10, 2010

"Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." (Ps 91:9,10)

Welcome

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another..." (Heb 10:25)

There is a team building lesson that is usually taught in the corporate world that may be familiar to some. This lesson has to do with group dynamics and it was developed by Psychologist Bruce Tuckman. A group of people (team) that is brought together for a purpose or task goes through the following stages: **forming, storming, norming, performing**, and **transforming**.

In the **forming** stage, a group of people is getting to know each other and feeling their way around their new surroundings. In the **storming** stage, some people question the authority of leaders and possibly disagree with others in the group because their understanding of the group is still in the initial stages. Since Metro has been in existence as a church for many years, we can assume that for the most part the forming and storming stages are over. However, it is important to note that new people who join the church will undergo the forming stages, and the storming stage is avoided in most, if not all cases.

The stage I'd like to emphasize here is the norming, performing and transforming stages.

The reason I am bringing forth this group dynamics lesson here is to reassert the resolution that Pastor Satish has challenged each of us for the year 2010. The New Year challenge for everyone who attends this church is to make a commitment to attend not only Sunday worship services but also the various other church services such as cell meetings, area prayer meetings, Saturday services, FTH meetings, and fasting prayers.

The verse in Heb 10:25 puts a great emphasis on group (team) assemblies. Each of us in this church is part of a team (the "Metro Team"). In order for our church to perform as an effective unit, we must go through the norming stage. During the **norming** stage, a group of people start to socialize (fellowship), they are getting to know each other, understand and agree to the goals of the group, and drive toward the success of the group (church). In my own personal experience, the opportunities whereby I have gotten closer to the church members are during the non-Sunday services (this is by no means diminishing the importance of Sunday services). At the small gatherings such as the area meetings, it is easier for a group to fellowship, spend a little more considerable time together, and listen to and worship God on a more personable and family-type setting. A group in this setting is able to work together better since they have developed a more close relationship to each other and they are exposed more to the common goals/theme of the group.

If a group of people has gone through the norming stage, then that group enters the **performing** stage. It is important to realize that a group is more effective in performing if that group is close to each other and have a better understanding of each other and of the common goals for the group.

During the performing stage, a group is working together efficiently and in agreement to accomplish a certain goal or goals. We as a church need to come together more often, develop relationships, and move toward having one mind and thereby the Holy Spirit will work in us to enter the **transforming** stage and thereby function as a single entity to perform great things for God.

I encourage you all to "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together" and start the journey where we as a church will norm, perform, and transform for His Glory!

Yours in Christ,

Abie Jacob

Sermon Notes

Becoming Intimate with Christ

The one and only thing needed is to know Christ by hearing, listening and obeying the Word of God (Reminded of Mary of Bethany Luke 10:42)

Lack of intimacy is often because we do not have the Word in our heart and are not obeying the Word (Ps 119: 9; John 15:10)

Keeping the Word is important for intimacy with the Jesus (John 14:21; 1John 5:3)

In disobedience and rebellion often we

1. Show ignorance for the Word of God (Gen 3:1; Luke 24:25; Acts 13: 26)

   Eve's dilemma (Gen 3) Devil's Strategy (Matt 22:29: John 8:44)

   Playing to her curiosity (Gen 3:5; Deut 12:30)

   Playing to her senses (Gen 3:6; Josh 7:21)

2. Challenge the Authority of the Word of God (Gen 3:4, 5; cf. 1Sam 15: 17ff)
   Playing to her ego (Gen 3:4) "You shall not die" Questions authority?

3. Adulterate the Word of God (2Cor 2: 17)
   "Kaphlon" "Tavern keeper" adulterating their wines, becoming corrupt, peddling, hawking

4. Twist the Word of God (2 Pet 3: 16; Matt 4:6)
   "Strebloo" distort, twist, torture, torment, pervert, reverse

The intimacy with Christ we long for is based on a childlike understanding and response to the Word of God. Do we have the courage, faith and will to seek out, discover and obey the Word in this manner?