



March 29, 2007

Personal Note: Thanks for everyone who have been praying for Tammy and I. This letter comes to you from Phoenix, Arizona. We attended and assisted in the funeral of Tammy's 94-year old grandfather, Harold Orcutt this morning. Today was the end of an era, as the last in our families from that generation. We are thankful for his life, and the profound impact he has had on our family.

Dear Prayer Partners,

LESSONS LEARNED:

What lessons have we learned over the past year in this church planting process? Here are a few that are on my heart that I wanted to share with you.

1) Church planting is about following God.

At the core, church planting is simply following a belief that God wants to plant a church. Just like a young couple moves toward marriage because they feel it is God's will, or a man or woman make a career change after much prayer - church planting is a response to a belief that God is leading in a certain direction. I believe, in my core, that God desires to plant Lake Cities Community Church through Trinity Fellowship Church. Everything else flows from this.

2) Church planting is about loving people.

With so much other "stuff" to do - It is easy to forget that church planting primarily about people. Saving lost people, shepherding believing people and loving all people.

It is about Malcolm, Kathi, Micah, Rhonda, Samantha, Daniel, Phillip, Jon, Elyce, Brian, Elle, Dave, Julie, Alex, Makayla, Felicity, John, Char, Tim, Jenny, Hudson, Markus, Julia, Anna, Naomi, Rebekah, Jim, Laurel, Charlene, John, Char, Mark, Lisa, Jack, Joe, Mac, Debby, Kevin, Laura, Dave, Sandy, Ethan, Aubrey, Monica, Ian, Linda, Faith, Eden, Tristan, Tammy, Trevor, Hayden, Taylor, Hudson and whomever else the Lord leads our way.

Look at those names again. That is the church.

3) Church planting is about doing the hard work.

No doubt about it – church planting is a lot of work. Who will make sure the bulletin's get done? Who is bringing the donuts this week? Or, is it bagels? (Who makes *that* decision?) Who knows how to set up the sound system? Can you come early? Can you stay late? We need more signs for Sunday morning – Can you get those made? We need something for visitors to fill out – can you do that? Another possible location? Great! And the list goes on! Without many people willing to "work heartily as unto the Lord" church planting would not be possible. I am so thankful that we have a core-group of "worker bees"!

4) Church planting is about living by faith.

Those of us from Trinity Fellowship have been learning from Pastor Carl that it was a great step of faith for Abraham to leave the comfort of familiarity of Ur to travel to a land he had never heard of. Living by faith always involves dealing with the unknown. This is church-planting-reality. Because the unknown can be a little scary, church

planting is, for sure, outside of the comfort zone. Part of the adventure of church planting is learning to trust God, to wait on His timing, to seek “peace” in the midst of storms.

PRAY FOR US THIS WEEK:

Sunday is a big day for the church plant - our final week at Trinity Fellowship Church and a special commissioning at the end of both services. It promises to be emotional - both sad and joyful. Pray for us as we experience this milestone. Pray for the kids as well as the adults.

I would appreciate your prayers for my preparation for the Easter Sunday sermon. I have been rightly focused on the funeral of Tammy's Grandfather and helping with that service, travel, etc. But I feel now somewhat behind. I'd appreciate your prayers for my preparation and for the Lord's help.

UPCOMING DATES:

- April 1, Sun – No meetings. Day for prayer and fasting. Commissioning at Trinity Fellowship.
- April 4, Wed – 8am. Ribbon Cutting for LCCC at Rowlett Chamber of Commerce (Please come!)
- **Easter, April 8, 2007, Sun. – FIRST PUBLIC SERVICE of Lake Cities Community!**

Pray for the Lord to continue to guide us as we prepare to reach out to the lost in the Lake Cities area.

CHURCH PLANTING QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

This set of statistics I got from a church planter (started a church 5 years ago) in Minnesota, through my brother, who went to seminary with him at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. My brother lives in Chicago. And because of our prayer letters, it came my way this week and I am sharing it with you!

This falls under the “Why Church Plant” category. Some sobering statistics on the condition of the church in the United States:

- **Fact #1** The percentage of adults in the United States who attend church is decreasing
- **Fact #2** Roughly half of the churches in America did not add on new person through conversion growth last year
- **Fact #3** Almost three times as many churches in America are closing (3,750) as are opening (1,300) each year.
- **Fact #4** Conversion to other religions and dropouts from Christianity are escalating
- **Fact #5** The decline in Christianity has been going on for nearly fifty years.
- **Fact #6** Too many church people believe and behave identically to their unchurched counterparts.

- (These statistics are all quoted from different sources as recorded in the book “Lost in America by Tom Clegg and Warren Bird)

E-MAIL LIST INFORMATION:

The purpose of this e-mail list is to encourage prayer for the planting of Lake Cities Community Church. The anticipated launch date is April 8, 2007, Easter Sunday.

Prayerfully,

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