

The Mind of Terry...

A new year.

Many start the year by making resolutions - things they want to make new in their lives. Perhaps the desire is for a new body with the help of weight loss or hitting the gym. Perhaps the desire is for a new car, a new career, a new reading habit, or ... well, the list is endless.

We are drawn to new things. New adventures intrigue us. New relationships excite us. New challenges get our “juices flowing.” There is something about “new” that is inviting to us.

I am currently reading a book entitled “What Got You Here Won’t Get You There.” The premise, as you might guess from the title, is this simple truth: In business you can’t expect what you have always done to always work. You have to be willing to try some new things.

What is true in business is also true in the church. Over the past few years we have tried some different things to attract new people. Some have worked. Some have failed. But overall, when past members come for a weekend service they almost always say, “There are so many people here that I don’t know.” That is exciting. That means we are growing. That means that some of the old things and some of the new things have worked.

But there is a problem. We have gotten into a rhythm. While this rhythm may feel “comfortable” to many of us, we must remember that what got us here won’t get us there. In other words, there are still many people in our area who need to know Jesus Christ. We have a responsibility as a church to figure out how to reach them with the Gospel. What got us to this point may not work in reaching them. So, we need to figure out what it will take and be willing to take that step. We have to be willing to try something new.

I don’t know what that is yet. We have started a youth program on Wednesday nights for those in K-5th grades. That is good. But what about all those in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and even 100s that we are not reaching? What will it take? Are we willing to go the extra mile and try something new to reach them?

The answer is yes. We have to be willing. The people are important enough. Jesus is important enough.

So, what suggestions do you have? What can we try next to reach even more with the message of Jesus Christ? Let's hear your ideas of the new we can do to make our church inviting to those who do not yet know Jesus Christ.

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

Revelation 21:5 NKJV

Thoughts from Darren...

2016 in Review

+

Hopes, Dreams, & Prayers for 2017

2016: Baptisms; camp; CIY; VINE; IMPACT180; weekly youth group; lock-in; youth Sunday; concerts; YoungLife; weekly congregational service; mission trips; community service projects. These are some of the things that our youth have been involved in the past year. We (LCC and the Church) are blessed to have such an active, genuine group of young people involved in our congregation. They are representing Christ in awesome ways; both when they are acting as a part of an LCC group and (more importantly) when they are simply living as students, classmates, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, athletes, employees, and volunteers. Please let them know you appreciate their service. Please continue to support them with your prayers and pocketbook so that they may continue growing through study and service. Please know your support for our youth is felt. Thank you!

2017: The latin phrase “status quo” literally means “the state in which”. “The state in which” our youth programs are in is not bad; everything you just read above is proof of that. However, in letters to two different churches (Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3) Paul calls workers to do all they do as if they were working directly for the Lord. This resonates louder to a person in the position of ‘pastor’ or ‘elder’ or ‘deacon’ or ‘Sunday school teacher’ or...well you get the point. Whatever the role, especially (for my purposes in this note) when it deals with our youth, we can strive to go beyond the status quo.

That ball has already begun to roll down the hill and, in my opinion, is picking up pace. There is room for all of us to reach beyond “the state in which.” We have a K-5th Wednesday night ministry for the first time in my eight years at LCC. Nancy and Jane could use your help. Ask them how. We are reaching several unchurched youth in Liberty by attending twice-monthly meetings of YoungLife. Come hang out with the students or give to YL’s ministry. We WILL send over 50 students to camp this summer. Send a kid to camp. Better yet, attend a week of camp, build a relationship with a local student and continue to pour into them well after camp is over.

This would go on and on if not for the bottom of the page. Our youth at LCC benefit from your presence, your encouragement, your finances, and, most importantly, your prayer. I pray we can smash the status quo when it comes to all of those things.