

## *Vision Presentation*

Part 4 of the 5 part series: *Expanding Our Territory, Together!*  
January 29, 2012 – Leaders

### *Intro, History, Values, Mission*

#### **Intro:**

#### **History:**

- Among many great acts of faith we read in Hebrews 11

#### **Hebrews 11:24-30 (NLT)**

It was by faith that Moses, ... chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin ... for he was looking ahead to his great reward.

<sup>30</sup> It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.

The hall of faith continues to be written today, Oakwood has been a part of it, and we can write eternal history beginning today forward.

- It was by faith that a small group of believers gathered in a home in South Tampa and prayed for God to birth a church through them **at Plant High School**
- It was by faith that Oakwood believed God was leading them from South Tampa to North Tampa when we **moved** from Plant High School to Gaither High School, and then to a strip shopping center.
- It was by faith, after a season of great set back and discouragement and the cutting of the ministry budget that Oakwood's elders presented to the congregation a vision called **Vision 96**. This vision dared to specify a date for acquiring a property we hadn't yet seen with funds we had no means of paying for. In just a few months God supplied us with several hundred thousand dollars through God's people at Oakwood and we owned without debt these twelve acres.
- Through faith we were able to build all **three** of these **phases** of our facilities,
- We were also able launch out **9 members as missionaries**
- We were blessed to give birth to a **daughter church** 5 years ago, Candlewood Community Church in Land O Lakes
- We have seen **many** children and adults come to **faith in Christ** and mature in faith.

### *Oakwood Elder's Approach to Visionary Goals*

- We must envision what God wants us to be and do and adapt as the Spirit leads, not project a set of goals that we want.
- We must be motivated by a vision that calls us and elicits from us faith and joyful sacrifice, not pushed by artificial goals and manipulation.
- We must envision what God wants to accomplish through us and trust His enablement, not view the future with humanistic positive thinking.
- We must prefer to boldly attempt something great for God and fail than to fearfully do nothing and succeed. We must understand that visionary faith and risk are related.
- We must aggressively utilize the Holy Spirit's ministry gifts and God given talents and natural resources, and draw upon His enabling power because we will be held accountable as stewards who have been divinely commissioned to a task.
- We must commit to optimum ministry, not maximum ministry.
- We must remain potentialities motivated, not problem motivated.
- We must be movement motivated not institutionally driven.
- We must be primarily focused outwardly, not inwardly.
- We must remain flexible as the Lord leads, not dogmatically rigid.

### **OUR VISION IS... BUILT ON OUR MISSION**

- Our Vision is built on our mission: To transform ordinary people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

The essence of this will remain our mission until Jesus reigns supreme!

Why did Jesus call us to this task? Just take a look at our circumstances

## **OUR VISION IS... BASED ON OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

When you look through at our community and world through God's eyes what do you see? Do you see that? ... see that...? Etc.

- There are ruined lives of people in our community & world
- God's heart breaks for these ruined lives  
The Gospel records that "*As they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to weep,*"
- God has plans to use us to love these people
- God wants us to love them into a growing relationship with Him

Therefore, we must look into our future with a heart of love and with a vision of faith.

Jesus said:

"The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work He started. ... I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you. ... It's harvest time!" (John 4:34-35, MSG)

## **OUR VISION IS BORN WITH... BELIEF IN OUR CONVICTION**

Jesus purposes Oakwood to grow more & better Christ-followers:

### **1. Because God loves & seeks lost people.**

God is passionate about this! We need to be passionate about it too!

### **2. Because God commands us to reach out.**

### **3. Because God purposes to grow His church**

The Scriptures make clear that God's primary vehicle for His blessing the world is His church. And that includes Oakwood!

## *The Vision Process & Love God*

### **The Vision Process**

With these things in mind,  
 we hope you'll grasp that  
 Our vision is built upon our already established mission process  
 we call,  
 Love ~ Grow ~ Serve



Our strategy is to guide people to move from Loving God, to Growing in Community, and then stepping into Serving the Church & World.

According to Jesus, loving God is our first priority.

At Oakwood, we also consider this to be the first step in living as a follower of Jesus. Our weekly worship service is the primary place for this, whether we come searching for God and investigating the claims of Christ, or as followers of Jesus seeking to express our love and devotion along with other believers.

**Action Point:** *Worship* God at our weekly worship services

And now we're entering into Oakwood's vision for 2012 & 2013.



The first realm of our vision into 2012 & 2013, concerns Loving God. It will take earnest faith in a God who has the power to do the impossible for us to fulfill our vision. Yet it will also take our pulling together and living out that faith through devoted service. We can't do these things without God, nor can we achieve them without every one of you!

#### **Vision to Love God**

- Growth of 25 new worshipers in 2012
- Growth of another 40 new worshipers in 2013
- Total of 65 new worshipers in by the end of 2013.
- 25 of these new worshippers will be those who were previously unsaved or un-churched.

According to American Church Growth observers, this level of growth is categorized as truly OUTSTANDING! It will clearly involve an exceptional work of God's Spirit through God's people for these percentages of growth to occur.

All aspects of our Love~Grow~Serve ministry process, coupled with earnest & persistent prayer, will be the catalysts to this growth. Most notable will be our *Serve the World* initiatives.

Among several of our ministry initiatives in Love God will be a total of 7 special opportunities (three in 2012 & four in 2013) for every one of us to invite others in our network of relationships to worship with us here at Oakwood.

## *Grow in Community*



The second step of our mission process is to Grow in Community. These are environments where participants have the opportunity to experience authentic community of loving care for one another, and to produce true spiritual growth in their relationship with God and maturity of character.

The action point for everyone at Oakwood is to intentionally connect ...

**Action Point:** *Connect* with other Christ-followers in a community group.

This is so core - so critical to the spiritual development and care of every one of us!

### **Vision to Grow in Community**

- Net growth of 20 new people into an Oakwood Community Group in 2012
- Net growth of 40 in 2013
- Total of 60 new people in Community Groups
- Net growth of 6 new Community Group Leaders

We need to invest ourselves in building caring relationships. We also must multiply groups, develop new leaders, and see additional people step up in faith to give leadership to these new groups. A key question for us all to ask ourselves is, *Am I willing to serve God in the ways that He calls me too?* Willingness is a key quality within us all. For if God calls us, and we are willing, then He will also equip us, even though we may feel inadequate.

## *Serve the Church & World*



Remember, our mission is to transform ordinary people into *fully devoted* followers of Jesus. So as we take our devotion to God a step further, we demonstrate our love by serving others – both the Church & World.

**Action Point:** *Deploy* onto a Serve Team.

Deploy into action on a Serve Team of others that focuses ministry to the Church, or a Serve Team that focuses ministry to the World. We encourage everyone to make a significant investment on one of these team, and some investment (though less) in the other ministry area.

### **Vision to Serve the Church & the World**

- 15 new serve team members in 1212
- 30 new team members in 2013
- Total net growth of 45 new, active serve team members

We will continue to **strengthen all our core ministries** to those within our **congregation**, including, but not limited to, our TreeHouse, PowerHouse, Worship Arts, Community Groups, Oakwood Mill, Prayer, Deacons and much more. We need more dedicated servants who will expand and enrich our critically important ministry to the Oakwood Church.

Our vision, *Expanding our Territory, Together!*, gives special focus upon *Serving the World to those who are like us nearby.*

We will accomplish this in:

- Personal Witness
- Oakwood outreach

The following are only some of the key highlights of our initiatives.

We will seek to equip and motivate greater numbers of us followers of Christ here at Oakwood, to actively follow Him in “*Soul Fishing*.”

### **Mark 1:17 (NLT)**

Jesus called out to them, “**Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!**”

In just a couple of weeks we are launching a Sunday morning message series to do just that, entitled “**Soul Fishing**.”

We will be conducting more **Contagious Christian Seminars**. We do so with the intent of equipping *every* Christ-follower at Oakwood to actively share their faith.

We all will be praying earnestly for people we know to come to faith in Christ. We will also be diligently reaching out to them with care, invitations, & sharing.

These things alone will provide a powerful contribution to our *Expanding our Territory, Together!* But there’s more to *Expanding our Territory, Together!* It involves two types of Serve Teams who will serve those who live near Oakwood.

Those two teams are:

- Help a Family Team
- Compassion in Action Team

- Help a Family Team

We will launch a *Help a Family Team* to serve families in our community who have significant desires to enrich their marriages and parenting.

- Compassion in Action Team

We will also launch a *Compassion in Action Team* to specifically serve the needs of those in the community immediately surrounding Oakwood.

*Expanding our Territory, Together!*, also involves our:  
Serving the world to those unlike us near and far

There are several elements to this. Here are just three of them:

- Begin implementing the “Oakwood Missions Strategy” that the Missions Taskforce, Missions Commission and elders have worked on for the past year.
- Help Oakwood members increase their understanding of world missions and how they can participate in becoming world Christians
- Commission one family unit into full-time vocational missions with significant levels of support by 2013.

### *Prayer*

This is all exciting but it is beyond our abilities no hard we try to accomplish these things. But that’s why prayer we are going to so earnestly pray.

You see,

**Evangelism & discipleship are effective only by the power of God – and, the power of God is only unleashed by our passionate, faith-filled prayers.**

Therefore, unlike any season in our history:

**We will become a people who pray more passionately.**

Prayer is God’s fuel for fulfilling the mission for *Expanding our Territory, Together!*

Jesus encouraged us to pray when He said,

... Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy (John 16:24, NLT).

There are a number of prayer initiatives that we will undertake. Here are just the highlights of three of them:

- Every other month, on Sundays we will have a time of prayer for those in the congregation who can stay an extra 30 minutes.

- We will have a small team each Sunday praying during the first half of the service for an authentic experience of contagious worship and Spirit-illuminated working through the teaching of His Word
- We will conduct four congregation-wide prayer events that will focus on praise & petition for growth. This will include a 24 hour church wide fast.

The first church-wide event is this week. We are encouraging our church family to pray for the Vision and the different components. We are also asking you to pray and fast this next Friday night to Saturday night and then join us for a dinner at 5 PM followed by a time of corporate prayer. There are more details in the worship program.

### *Wrap Up Challenge*



We can't fulfill this vision without God. But grasp this too: We can't fulfill it without you either! That's why our vision emphasizes, *Together!*

Let me state this more positively: **We CAN fulfill this vision, WITH God as everyone of us teams together with faith and dedication.**

As God's people were about to Expand Their Territory, Together into a region that was filled with huge challenges, God strengthened Joshua by saying,

#### **Joshua 1:9 (NLT)**

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. ***For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.***