



New Life Community Church Annual Report 2005

Summary

The year 2005 was one of great challenge for New Life Community Church. Despite legal proceedings we have grown spiritually in the past year. As a body we studied the book of I John "Responding To Our Culture With Light And Love", Mark 1-8 "On The Road With Jesus", Acts 1-12 "The Wonder Of The Church", and the Christmas series: "The Gifts We're Given" and saw lives changed throughout the year. This report is designed to give a general overview of what the Lord has been up to at New Life Community Church. The stage has been set for great things in 2006 and we are grateful to God for His faithfulness to us.

Our Ministries

Music

Jim Miller continues to lead our church in wonderful worship. The worship team has been enlarged with the addition of **Dave & Deanne Smith**. We appreciate so much the faithful ministry of **Fenton Murray** during the formative years of our church. He is taking a break from the worship team this year. Our worship continues to be one of our defining distinctives as a church.

Youth

We appreciate the work of **Paul Fischer, Emy Miller, Mike & Gina Kindscher, Karen & Orville Matheson** and **Barbara Holley** providing leadership for the group throughout the year. Currently the youth group is not meeting but is participating in Young Life and other church youth groups. One of our priorities this past year was the addition of a Youth/Children's staff person to reconstitute the ministry to our teens. After much prayer and what became a nation-wide search, **Dan Houtsinger**, from Oregon, Wisconsin, is planning to join our staff in the next few months to give leadership to this vital area. We praise God for His faithfulness in providing for this crucial staff person to help us grow our church!

Women's

Billye Heath and Barbara Holley have been giving leadership to the women's ministry. Some of the activities this past year included an "Ableskiver Brunch in April, Ladies Lunch in October and the Christmas Tea in Hollister in December. All of these were opportunities to get to know the women from First Baptist and invite new friends to the fellowship of New Life Community Church.

Children's

Billye Heath and **Linda Sereno** have taken over leadership in our children's ministry from **Rhonda Murray**. We appreciate so much her dedication in coordinating this ministry in the past years. When **Dan Houtsinger** arrives he will be responsible for coordinating the curriculum and staffing for our nursery and children's church. We look forward to this ministry growing significantly in the coming year. We hosted the **Child Evangelism Fellowship** five day Bible club in July where four children received Christ and many received Spanish New Testaments.

Men's

Marvin Swaithes continues to lead the men's breakfast meeting on Saturday mornings studying Patrick Morley's The Man In The Mirror. The men will be relocating to the church kitchen in the next few months to launch a new accountability group to assist the men in their continued growth spiritually and relationally.

Missions

In January we responded to the Tsunami tragedy in Asia by receiving a special offering and contributing to **Samaritan's Purse** for the relief work there. In September \$735 dollars were given for Katrina hurricane relief. This year we undertook an ambitious project with our church supported missionary, **Lunkholal Kipgen ("Kip")** in Manipur, India. We provided Christmas for the children in his village by shipping a total of **70 shoeboxes** plus over \$100 for gifts for the teenagers. This will be something that these children will never forget.

Outreach

Our major neighborhood outreach this year was our Rummage Sale held in October. Through this event we were able to meet many of our neighbors and three new families have been attending worship services as a result. We appreciate so much **Billye Heath** giving leadership to the project and the incredible help provided by **Jade Hoggatt, Jeannie Rainwater, Barbara Sanchez, Mark Coffman and Jane Swaithes** among others, who helped sort, price and prepare the items for the sale. We are also grateful for all those who helped out on the day of the sale to make it such a success.

Projects

We have established a new **Church Library**, under the direction of **Billye Heath**. Major contributions of books were made by **Pat Strader, Dave & Deanne Smith, Mark Coffman and Hank Holley**. Books are available in the front office to check out or to share with a friend.

Special Events

In July we celebrated the second anniversary of New Life Community Church. We also enjoyed an all-church picnic in August hosted by **Kathryn Meyers & Kirk House** and coordinated by **Billye Heath** and **Marvin & Jane Swaithes**.

There was a great turn out and many teens participated in the wacky games and activities. Our **Christmas party** on December 18th was a special time for our church family. The pot luck dinner coordinated by **Barbara Sanchez** was great and the “white elephant” gift exchange was a lot of fun, including a special appearance by Santa Claus. Our **Christmas Eve Service** was a wonderful way to celebrate our Savior’s birth and reach out into the community. Two people received Christ and started their new life in Christ as we commemorated Christ’s birth as a baby. Our **worship service on Christmas Day** was especially meaningful. It was awesome to spend the morning in celebration and communion as the family of God.

Property

When we responded to the invitation from First Baptist Church of Las Lomas to conduct joint worship services at their facility in May of 2004 we had no idea that we would be drawn into a lawsuit by the Central Coast Baptist Association. The abhorrent position of being sued by fellow Christians has placed a very heavy burden on our church body that persists even to this day.

The issue before us became helping First Baptist of Las Lomas save their church from being taken over by CCBA. After much discussion and prayer we decided to stick it out and help our sister church try to save their property. The law suit dragged on with preliminary hearings, depositions and finally court in June of 2005. During that time we prayed diligently and our leadership fasted regularly regarding the outcome of the suit. On the eve of trial CCBA dropped the cause of action against New Life and its pastor from the suit. When the judge handed down his ruling in favor of CCBA in September we were surprised but knew we had done all God had asked us to do to help First Baptist defend itself. According to the judge’s ruling all assets and property of First Baptist would now go to CCBA.

When First Baptist’s decision to appeal the judge’s ruling was made known, many members of NLCC were greatly distressed, and some have even stopped attending church since that time because of, at least in part, this decision to go forward with the appeal. We know that First Baptist’s decision was made not for them alone, but they did so for us as well, hoping to provide a place to worship together until this matter has been completely resolved. We thank God for their faithfulness in following Him.

It has become apparent to us that we are now standing at another crossroads in the direction of our church. The future at the current site is, at best, uncertain. The time has come for us to return to our vision of building a vibrant church in Prunedale to reach that community.

We firmly believe that we need to investigate finding a place in Prunedale for New Life Community to meet. A property taskforce, headed by **Marvin Swaithes** including **Paula Gallego** and **Hank Holley** has been formed to search for a new

church site. This move will certainly involve financial sacrifice and the inconvenience of leaving a church building where everything is set up and usable any time, any day, to probably moving in and out of a place in Prunedale.

The Numbers

Attendance

During 2005 our Sunday Worship attendance averaged 37 people each week. In December we averaged over 40 each Sunday. On Easter Sunday we had 61 join us for worship and one person received Christ. There were 20 in attendance at the Christmas Eve Service and two people received Christ.

Membership

A new member was added to NLCC in 2005; **Twyla Robbins**.

Decisions for Christ

There were **nine recorded decisions to accept Christ as Savior** during 2005.

Other Additions

On February 18, 2005 **Nolan Diego Friesell** was born to **Jeff and Lupe Friesell**.

Finances

New Life Community Church has been committed from the start to operate on faith in God's provision for our finances. We do not have any kind of pledge program committing people to give certain amounts. We trust God to supply our needs through His people. Our general fund giving for 2005 has averaged \$5,716/month toward a budget of \$7,810/month. (Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for 2005 is attached) We praise the Lord for the generous giving of the people of NLCC and their friends.

The Future

Church Development

We will be diligently searching for the right facility God has for us to use for worship in the Prunedale area. One of the big differences between Las Lomas and Prunedale is that Prunedale is an identifiable community with many shops and places to meet neighbors and advertise the church. Las Lomas is between Watsonville and Aromas and has only one grocery store and no identifiable community. The elders still feel that Prunedale is the community we are called to serve.

New Life has benefited greatly financially from the graciousness of First Baptist by being able to use the facility, rent free, for the last 18 months. The appellate process will take up to a year or more to be decided. Should the Lord want us to

remain here, He will make that evident as the future is revealed to us. The process will give us time to pursue a new facility in Prunedale to relocate our church. We are excited about the future possibilities as the Lord continues to lead us each step of the way.

Youth/Children's

Having **Dan Houtsinger** as part of our staff is a tremendous blessing! We look forward to the development and strengthening our the key ministry to our youth and students in 2006.

Outreach

We are committed to developing our Missions focus and support as the right opportunities present themselves. We believe this is an important part of "being the church" ... not just focusing our efforts locally but around the world as well.

Conclusion

Nowhere in the Bible did God ever give anyone an easy job. We rejoice at the ministry the Lord has provided here at New Life Community Church and are confident that He is leading us toward a future bright with hope and growth for His kingdom through our fellowship. Thank you for being partners with us in this incredible adventure.

Your servants for Jesus' sake,

The elders of NLCC