



NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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New Life Community Church Annual Report 2008

Summary

The year 2008, which marked our fifth anniversary as a church, was a year of many “firsts” for New Life Community Church as the church continued to grow in numbers and spiritually. We are continually surprised at what God is doing in, and through, the church family. Our two major goals for 2008, which we continued from the prior year, were: **1) to develop and implement a strategy to reach the Prunedale area with the gospel** and **2) to develop and implement opportunities to connect people who come to NLCC into the fellowship of the church.** We have been successful in reaching out to the community in various creative ways. Many people have come to know Christ personally. New ministries have been launched to involve and connect people in the church in significant service and relationships. God is indeed at work everywhere we look in our church family. This report is designed to give a general overview of what the Lord has done this past year at New Life Community Church. We praise Him for His faithfulness to us and give Him all the glory!

Our Ministries

Teaching

According to our core value: **relevant, application oriented Bible teaching that make's God's Word come to life;** our Sunday teaching began with a verse-by-verse study of the book of James: **“How to Grow Spiritually: a Practical Guide to Growing in Christ”**. We followed that with: **“Decoding the Mysteries of God's Will: Finding and Following God's Will for Your Life”**. Then the summer was spent studying the life of Joseph in the Old Testament: **“Facing Adversity: Turning Stumbling Blocks into Building Blocks”**. In the fall we studied Hebrews 10:32-12:17 **“Breaking Out of the Ordinary: Living a Life of Faith”** followed by a 2-part mini series on the foundations of biblical marriage: **“Marriage by the Designer”**. We concluded the year with **“Heroes: Winning Through Losing”** looking at how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things by trusting Him. Many people made significant decisions for Christ through the year.

The Wednesday night Bible study has continued to grow as we discuss the Sunday morning message and make personal applications. An average of 10 -12 people been participating in the dinner each week and enjoying the time of informal interaction over a shared meal. The times for the dinner and study were modified in the fall; with dinner from 6:00 – 6:45 and Bible study from 6:45 until 8:00. This allows families with kids to get home at a reasonable time.

Music

The quality of the music at all of our services is outstanding. **Jim Miller** continues to be the “front man” and lead our amazing worship team. **Sten Strandberg** has been invaluable to the team on bass guitar. **Becky Miller** with her incredible harmonies adds so much depth to each song and to everyone’s worship experience. **Sandy Knight** on drums has been a great addition to the worship team this year. Rounding out the current group is our newest member, **Gary Soucy** on mandolin, slide guitar, and who knows what in the future. **Dave & Deanne Smith** returned from down south for some great music at our 5th anniversary celebration. **Mary Miller** still fills in with her extraordinary percussion on occasion. Even **Hank Holley** has been known to join in the fun from time to time on guitar. Our worship experience continues to be one of our defining distinctives as a church demonstrating another of our core values: *“authentic worship that brings people into the very presence of God.”* We are greatly blessed by the quality of music and the depth of spiritual blessing that the worship team supplies each week.

Children’s

With a dramatic rise in children attending on Sunday mornings there was a transition in our Children’s Ministry leadership this year. **Linda Sereno** has done a great job in building the foundation of this ministry and now **Taffy McMahan** has stepped up to be our Children’s Ministry Director. The team of Sunday School teachers and helpers has grown to include: **Lauri Strandberg, Daniel & Maria Vega** along with their daughter **Teresa, Danielle Saucy, Julie Cheek, Elisha Aquino, Angie Bryant** and **Gina Wahl** who have come in to help **Linda Sereno, Amy Johnson** and **Jean Miller** who have been faithful over the years in teaching our young ones. **Pat Strader** continues to coordinate our nursery providing lovingly care for the infants so their parents can participate in the worship service. The development of the Activity Center has provided much needed space to properly minister to our children.

Youth

We continue to prayerfully look for the right leadership God has prepared for us to lead the revitalization of our youth ministry. With the acquisition of the Activity Center we now have space to develop a youth outreach. We have a number of teens attending Sunday services and pray that 2009 will be year to relaunch a vital ministry to this significant group.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry has formed a leadership council comprised of: **Billye Heath, Barbara Holley and Jane Swaites**. Under their direction the women had outings in June, August and October that included lunches, a visit to Gizdich Ranch and spirited discussion. In September our women participated in our first women's retreat at Mission Springs. The women also sponsored a baby shower for **Summer Kyle** in honor of her newborn **Dawson** in November. **Billye Heath** continued to teach the weekly morning Bible study and plans have been finalized to begin an evening Bible study in February of 2009. A number of mature women are now mentoring new believers and plans are to expand this ministry in the coming year.

Men's Ministry

With the opening of the Activity Center our Men's breakfast has moved from the Country Kitchen restaurant to our new kitchen facility with the men making their own breakfast. **Rich McMahan** is providing leadership to this and the men are using the "*Our Daily Bread*" as the basis for their discussion time together.

Missions

Our missionary, in Manipur, India; **Lunkholal Kipgen "Kip"** continues his ministry in extreme northeast India to 26 remote villages. Through our monthly support his salary has doubled and he has been able to marry and now has a daughter who was born in 2007. We hope to bring Kip to Prunedale someday for him to share personally what God is doing through his ministry.

This year we collected 44 boxes as part of Samaritan's Purse "**Operation Christmas Child.**" These gift boxes were sent to disadvantaged children around the world affected by natural disasters or war. The blessing is indescribable as we spend just a little time and money to provide such an impact on young lives around the world.

Our elders agreed this year to provide spiritual oversight and accountability for **Jack & Sheri Clegg** as they began a new home church planting ministry in Morgan Hill. So now we are involved in assisting regional ministry as well as international ministry efforts.

Outreach

A major focus in 2008 was our outreach to the community. To go along with our "Cookie Ministry" we produced NLCC logo coffee mugs that, along with the cookies, are personally delivered by teams to people who have visited the church as a way of welcoming them into our fellowship. We appreciate **Sandy Knight** for taking the initiative to get these mugs made.

The Saturday before Easter we had a "friend raiser" car wash inviting people to join us for worship the following day and giving them information about our church. We still enjoy the reputation of doing the best job of washing cars of any

group in town. Everyone gets a personal conversation and a printed invitation to the church.

In 2007 we tried something unique; providing free gift wrapping for the community at the shopping center in front of Ace Hardware the Saturday before Christmas. We wrapped gifts for free and invited people to come to our Candlelight Christmas Eve service and regular Sunday worship. This event was such a success that this year we wrapped gifts on the two Saturdays before Christmas at each of the local shopping centers. We wrapped hundreds of gifts for people (no fooling) and got to know a lot of our neighbors while having a great time together taking turns as wrappers and greeters.

In the spring we opened our church for the start of a Narcotics Anonymous group on Tuesday nights. In the fall **Lauri Strandberg** began an Alcoholics Anonymous group at the church on Saturday mornings. These groups have provided a much needed ministry to individuals in the community and recently one of our members was told that: *"The word around town is that New Life Community Church is the church you can go to if you aren't 'perfect' yet."* What a tremendous testimony to our core value of being: *"a redemptive, caring community with everyone welcome and encouraged to contribute according to their giftedness."*

When we reserved the space for our 5th anniversary picnic we also funded the sponsorship of a little league team at Manzanita Park for the spring of 2009. The kid's uniforms will have our name on them and we can even supply our own coaches. This is another creative way of getting out into the community to get to know our neighbors and invite them to discover NLCC.

Projects

Due to the faithful, dedicated work of our friend **Joey Silva**, the audio files and message notes of each Sunday's message are now available on our web site: www.newlifecommunity.net **Mike McMillen** has been of invaluable assistance as we record, transfer, edit and upload the files each week. The downloads of the audio or pdf files are on the "Media Page" of the website along with the archived files of prior messages and series. This is another outreach tool for the church.

The church took on the project of painting **Pat Strader's** house in Aromas from June 28th to July 5th with so many people helping we can't begin to name them all. The same is true for the renovating of the new Activity Center that involved men, women and young people over the course of four weeks during the holiday season. Major contributions to the effort were made by **Marvin Swaites, Rich McMahan, Fred & Becky Moore, Ann Vir** and **Rich Bradshaw**, among others.

In the fall we mobilized our church to get out the vote on Proposition 8 amending the state constitution to read: *"Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."* We appreciate **Sean Cheek** for coordinating this effort in support of biblical marriage.

Special Events

July 13, 2008 marked the fifth anniversary of the first worship service of New Life Community Church. On that day we had a special worship celebration followed by a picnic at Manzanita Park. It was a wonderful time as friends who helped the church get established over the last five years joined us along with new friends to celebrate God's goodness over the years. We had such a good time we plan to make the birthday picnic an annual event each summer.

Our **Christmas party** on December 7th was again a great time of getting to know new people in the church family. The pot luck dinner coordinated by **Barbara Sanchez** was tremendous and the "white elephant" gift exchange was a riot. These events are valuable for bringing our congregation together for fun and relationship development.

Leadership Development

For the last two years at our Elders and wives annual retreat we have been strategizing and praying about developing new leaders in our church. In June we had our first Leadership Community meeting bringing together our elders and wives along with our ministry leaders and their spouses for a time of reviewing vision, philosophy and strategy. This time was so valuable it was followed by another one in September. These meetings are now being held quarterly as together we discuss, plan and pray together about how to develop the ministries of NLCC.

Property

During the year it became apparent that we had to have more space for our children on Sunday mornings. Having 12-14 kids and 2 or 3 leaders in one small room was simply unmanageable. After asking the church to pray and exploring with our landlord the options available to us God provided the answer at a moderate cost in supplying the new Activity Center.

Acquiring the new Activity Center was a tremendous blessing to the church. The space (right next to our Worship Center) had been a veterinarian's office for over 10 years and needed a total renovation and cleaning. What a blessing it was as people volunteered their time and skills to clean, repair, paint and furnish the space for use beginning January 2009. The Activity Center doubles our total church space and provides much needed rooms for our children's ministry. We were also able to install a complete kitchen (with a donated, stove, refrigerator, microwave, etc.) for our Wednesday night dinners, Men's breakfasts and other church events. There is also additional space for meetings and the future development of a youth center.

The landlord made the space available to us at a steep discount on a month-to-month rental basis. In this tough economy we don't think he will be able to lease it anytime soon, but we have a "first right of refusal" in case he does get any offers. We accept this with gratitude to God for His goodness to us!

As the Lord blesses and we continue to grow our space needs for worship capacity will increase. There are a number of options we have considered for expanding our current facility that we will be exploring this year.

The Numbers

Attendance

In January and February of 2008 our Sunday Worship attendance averaged **32 people** each week. By the end of the year, during the last two months of 2008 we averaged **52 people** in attendance each week. On Easter Sunday we had 42 people join us for worship and two people indicated decisions to receive Christ. Our attendance continued to increase during the year with 56 people at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service including 12 people recording decisions to receive Christ!

Membership

Four new members were added to NLCC in 2008; **Ollie Bryant, Dale Mangan,** and **Rich & Taffy McMahan.**

Decisions for Christ

There were **29 recorded decisions to accept Christ as Savior** during 2008!

Baptisms

Two people followed the Lord in believer's baptism on Palm Sunday: **Adam Drake,** and **Dale Mangan.**

Other Transitions

As a church we had our first marriage in June when **Lauri Heerd** and **Sten Strandberg** were wed at Marina State Beach. It was a wonderful time of the whole church being involved with the preparations and reception.

Finances

New Life Community Church is committed to operating by faith in God's provision for our finances. We will never badger anyone to give nor will we ever have any kind of pledge program asking people to commit to give certain amounts. There is no outside entity financially supporting the church; it is sustained by the free will giving of our members and friends. In **2008** we had a total income of **\$90,484**; which was a **9% increase** over the prior year's giving of **\$82,822.**

At the beginning of the year in January & February our average contributions per month were **\$6,409.** By the end of the year for November & December our contributions averaged **\$9,128/month.** For the entire year we averaged giving **\$7,540/month** toward a budget of \$9,310/month (**Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for 2008 is attached**). We praise God for the generous, faithful, consistent giving of the people and friends of NLCC.

With the addition of the Activity Center rental and other expenses our monthly need for 2009 will **increase to \$10,091/month**. We trust God to supply for all our needs through His people *“according to His riches in glory.”*

The Future

Facility

As we continue to minister in various ways to those in our church and in the community the demand for expanded space for worship will increase. New people are showing up every week and we don't want anyone to feel they are not welcome because we have no space for them to worship with us. Please pray with our leadership for the Lord's guidance as we consider **how to provide the extra needed space for worship** on Sundays. This is a major priority for us in 2009. As usual we have no idea what God “has up His sleeve” but are excited to discover what it is as we respond to the needs and opportunities He provides to address this problem.

Youth Ministry

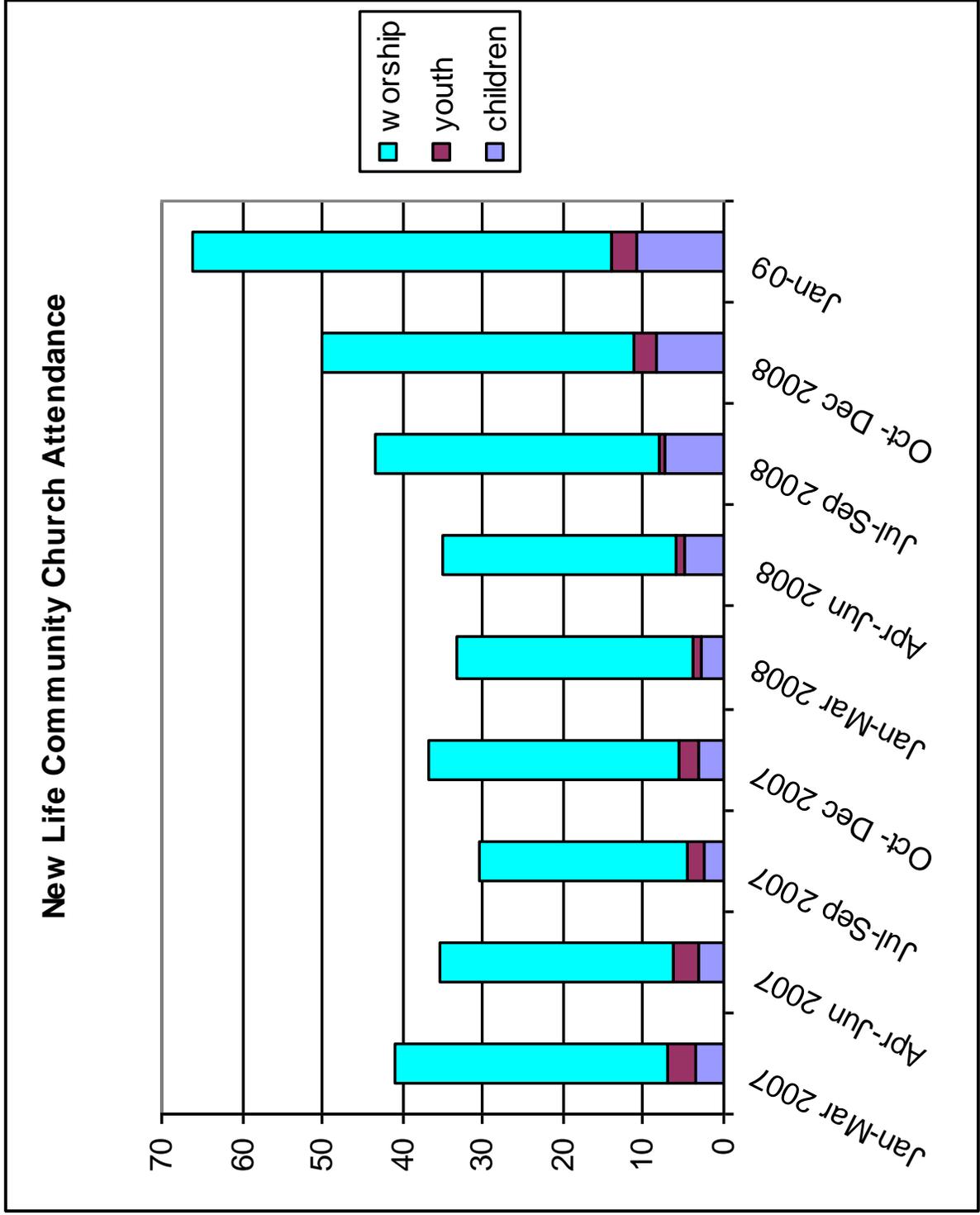
With the acquisition of the Activity Center we are ready to **reconstitute the development of our Youth Ministry**. We are actively praying and searching for the right leadership to direct this vital effort. The need in Prunedale is great for this kind of ministry and this is our other major priority for 2009. Please join us in prayer for this to become a reality in the near future.

Conclusion

2008 was a year of accelerated ministry development and opportunities. We now have a fully functioning, multi-dimensional, team ministry to our children that before we could only dream of. God has answered our prayers over and over again. The Activity Center now allows us to pursue the development of a youth center, summer Bible camp for kids, and other community and outreach endeavors. Thanks for being a part of this incredible adventure God is leading us on!

Your servants for Jesus' sake,

The elders of NLCC



New Life Community Church
Balance Sheet
Year End 12-31-2008

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>	
Bank Checking Account	\$4,134.77
• Youth Funds	\$ 100.00
• Children Funds	\$ 100.00
• Women's Funds	\$ 100.00
Total Current Assts	\$4,434.77
<u>Other Assets</u>	
Furniture and Equipment	\$ 499.25
Total Assets	\$4,934.02
<u>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 0
Equity	
Net Income	(\$1,325.69)
Retained Earnings	(\$3,643.70)
Other Equity	\$9,903.41
Total Equity	\$4,934.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$4,934.02

New Life Community Church
Income Statement
Year End 12-31-2008

<u>INCOME AND EXPENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	
General Fund	\$89,583.66
Benevolence	\$ 900.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$90,483.66
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Salaries/Housing/Medical	\$66,120.00
Bank Fee	\$ 120.19
Insurance	\$ 995.85
Supplies	\$ 300.00
Lease/Rental Building	\$18,967.20
Ads & Public Relations	\$ 769.37
Missions	\$ 1,256.00
Benevolence	\$ 1,280.90
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$89,809.51
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 674.15