

Sardis Community Church Ministry Direction Update February 2009

Our Biblical Purpose

“Why do we exist as a church?”

“Leading People to Love and Serve Jesus Christ!”

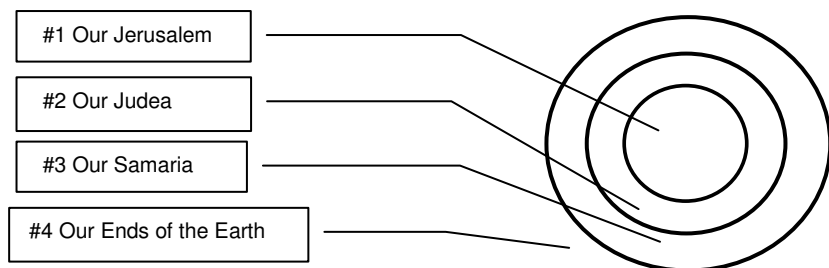
Our Ministry Milestones

Observations and lessons God has been teaching us:

1. We need to lay down our personal preferences for what God values, depending on Him and surrendering to his direction.
2. At times we have risen to opportunities and endeavoured to solve church problems with plans and programs rather than seeking God in prayer with surrendered hearts.
3. We are optimistic. We see that if we let God work through us, the future is indeed bright. Future chapter titles included, “Wow!”

Our Mission Focus

Based on the model Jesus gave his disciples in Acts 1:8 we believe God has given us the following people groups to reach:



Mission Focus #1 – *People we are currently reaching and who are like us nearby*

Mission Focus #2 – *People who are like us but further away*

Mission Focus #3 – *People who are close by but harder to reach*

Mission Focus #4 – *People who are far away and difficult to reach*

Our Preferred Values:

What values do we need to have as a church if we are to reach the people in our Mission Focus?

1. Accepting Relationships - We value people far more than programs. Therefore everything we do in ministry will be done from a relational centre, not just as a task, marked by grace and God's heart of love.
2. Dependence on God – We value God as our source and Christ as our centre, joyfully celebrating who He is in our worship and prayerfully depending on Him in all things because without Him we can do nothing.
3. Meaningful Worship - We value meaningful corporate worship where we can express ourselves to God in prayer, confession and praise in an appropriate, relevant way.
4. Social Concern - We value the people of our community and those who are marginalized. We work for their recovery, accepting them where they are.
5. Outward Focus - We value ministry based on a vision of reaching lost people and bringing wholeness to their lives because “without vision people perish”. People are drawn to Christ through respectful, accepting relationships, not just the imparting of information.
6. Integrity - We value truth and integrity marked by compassion and grace because without truth, meaningful relationships with God and others are impossible.
7. Empowering Lay Involvement - We value the encouraging and equipping of believers to serve sacrificially to their full potential as God calls them by His Spirit. This means we recognize gift based ministry and leadership styles that facilitate, empower and equip.
8. God's Word –. We value the truth of God expressed in a relevant way because the gospel is 'life and purpose' to all. The only stumbling block to faith must be the “cross” itself.

Our Vision

We envision a growing church community of caring, enthusiastic, adventurous people who are experiencing God, and teaming together with a passion to reach our friends, neighbours and world for Him.

- o We see dependence on God underlying everything we do. This is expressed through prayer and attention to the Scriptures.
- o We see worship services that are pleasing to God - creatively inspirational, celebratory and reflective, sensitive to the Holy Spirit and relevant to those we are trying to reach. We see these services as places where God's Word is clearly taught and explained and where newcomers are genuinely met, welcomed and drawn into the congregation.
- o We see creative caring and ministry to families and individuals in our community. This care will be lived out through the week as we engage our community in our homes, schools and workplaces, through larger creative events and partnering with others.

- o We see vibrant, reproducing small groups of various kinds for care and ministry. Everyone is loved, important and cared for. These groups are safe places where no one stands alone but rather experiences intimate community. We see each of these groups bridging to the community and serving God in their unique settings
- o We see leaders, teams and individuals being equipped, mentored and empowered to use their gifts resulting in an abundance of willing workers for all areas of ministry as we live out God's calling here and around the world.
- o We see Spirit filled and formed people who are becoming whole (emotionally and spiritually) as they willingly take the next step with Jesus in the longer process of discipleship.
- o We see an environment where mission partnerships are accepted in order to reach the people we can't (marginalized, overseas etc.) through evangelism, social justice and concern.
- o We see personal sacrifice in the giving of our personal resources and time.

Ultimately we see people in this community looking to Sardis Community as their spiritual home, a place of healing and hope in a world that is often overly busy and overwhelming.

Our Strategic Initiatives:

1. Prayerfully develop and implement a seeker sensitive process for the welcoming and assimilation of all into meaningful community and ministry.
2. Prayerfully develop and implement a plan to develop leaders and all members of the body to reach their full potential in Christ by:
3. Prayerfully develop an operational system and structure that administratively supports us in working effectively together toward our vision
4. Prayerfully develop and implement a strategy for small groups that results in a majority of our congregation involved in care groups and ministry teams.
5. Create a culture that gives rise to a "praying Congregation".