

AMAZING RESULTS!

NO CHANGE REQUIRED!

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There seems to be a never-ending drone of advertisement in every media outlet touting miraculous results – most often related to one’s physical appearance – without changing a thing in our current lifestyle or habits. Really?! If we keep doing

what we’ve always done, we’ll keep getting what we’ve always gotten. It’s that straightforward. A different result without change is a fantasy.

CHANGE happens with or without us. “Times change,” we say, and by that we mean styles, fashion, music, technology, and so on. We are often at the mercy of change because we have no control. It happens – whether we like it or not.

CHANGE can be intentional, purposeful and strategic. This type of change has a particular end result in mind. Current conditions or results are not what we desire or need so we make a purposeful change. In this case, we have more control over the change. Let’s think about this type of change some more.

If our TM churches are not as healthy and vibrant as God intends (current results) then are there things that could and should be done differently?

Things like:

- making changes that result in focused and effective outreach
- making changes that bring greater clarity to the Gospel so that its power penetrates the hearts of those around us
- considering how existing resources, programs and facilities could be utilized differently, resulting in positive change

The answer is, “YES!” The challenge, of course, is whether we are *willing* to engage in intentional strategic change. Too often, we buy into the erroneous logic of the advertisement that says

we don’t have to change a thing about how we think or act in order to achieve wonderful results. It’s just not true.

Being part of the Kingdom of God has everything to do with change (or being changed). In Christ, we are new creatures. The old has passed away and the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17). We are crucified, yet we live. It is Christ alive in us (Gal. 2:20). We are transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2). We have life in all its fullness (Jn. 10:10). God is able to do far more than we are able to dream (Eph. 3:20).

All these are God’s principles, promises, and actions! Sounds like CHANGE to me. Change, initiated by you, empowered by God; directed by and toward God; change producing results far different than our current state. That’s what I’m talkin’ about! Different results = change required!

USING NEW BAIT

by JOSH MATLOCK, pastor

I grew up at Bethany Baptist Church in Montclair, loving to attend summer backyards so we could play games, sing songs and learn about Christ. The bonus? A precious Otter Pop! Those were fun outreaches. And they worked...for a time.

We transitioned to having Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the church. Attendance jumped from fifteen to 75. We still played games, sang songs, learned about Christ...and Otter Pops (oh, still so good!). VBS was a great outreach...for a time.

I returned to Bethany three years ago to serve as senior pastor. Remembering the good old days, I decided to revise and sharpen VBS. We sent fliers to the schools, advertised on our marquee and encouraged people to invite friends. There were games, songs, Christ shared...and yes, Otter Pops. But, new kids didn’t show up. Not one; just our own kids. We made it even better the next year; still no new kids came. It simply wasn’t bringing the desired result.



We looked at our community’s needs, prayed and changed our approach. The exciting outcome? A one-week sports and drama program called Kids in Action. We advertised and the response was immediate! Kids chose from four electives – soccer, volleyball, a preschool activity, or drama and everyone heard the good news of Christ, daily. Sixty-two kids attended (31 from our church and 31 from the community). Families were invited to a Friday night program with nearly every family attending. The Gospel was shared, the sports kids received awards and the drama group performed.

Yes, it was something new. The old model wasn’t working anymore. Change wasn’t easy, but it sure was worth it!

TURNING VISION INTO REALITY: REACHING THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST

by HECTOR DE GUZMAN, pastor

The Life Christian Fellowships (LCF) began in mid-2002 with just two small churches, LCF of the Inland Empire, Fred Soriano, pastor; and LCF of San Gabriel Valley, Sonner Soriano, pastor. Each LCF is part of the greater Transformation Ministries’ movement of churches.



Honestly, we have struggled to survive, but God has been and continues to be at work developing us as pastors and helping us disciple and mold new leaders. We trust Him to do through us what only He can do and, He’s doing just that!

Since the beginning, and because we believe in Kingdom multiplication, the LCF churches have been very committed to planting new churches and actually becoming a church planting movement. The Lord is blessing this commitment.

I am the pastor of LCF, North Orange County. Our church was launched in 2003. LCF of South Orange County is pastored by Lito Javier and was launched in 2009. Our corporate goal is to plant at least one church in each of Southern California’s five major counties. By God’s grace, this vision of reaching the Filipino community for Christ is becoming a reality!

We held our first joint anniversary celebration in 2004 and it has become an important annual event. We gather to thank God for what He is accomplishing in our midst, and renew our bond with each other. In many ways, it is like a covenant renewal ceremony. We remind ourselves why we exist and share the next steps toward turning God’s vision to reality.

The churches also join together for other activities including retreats, training seminars, evangelistic outreaches and just-for-fun events. We pastors frequently join together for prayer, encouragement and support.

There is still much to be done, but we serve a mighty God! Would you become one of our prayer warriors? We need your support.

JAMMIN’ WITH A MISSION!

by SAM WILDER, pastor

When West Lakewood Baptist Church (WLBC) was first built, it was easily seen from the main thoroughfare, Lakewood Blvd. Visibility greatly diminished when a two-block apartment complex and two shopping centers were built right in front of the church. Ah, progress!

At the same time, demographics were changing within the city and church, a cultural non-interest in all things “church” was taking over our country and, a church-wide apathy toward reaching out had taken root. Even though the staff and board agreed God intended for us to be intentionally missional, this combination of factors was making it harder and harder.

One day, I shared an idea with a couple of musician friends. “You know what could be fun? A jam session at the church.” They really lit up! Before we knew it, we had planned our first “Summer Jam Session and Barbeque”. The church family and neighborhood were invited. A few seasoned musicians played and then invited audience members to join in by either singing or playing an instrument. It was so much more fun than Karaoke!

It wasn’t an “evangelistic” event in the strictest sense of the word; it was a time for the community to get to know us in a non-threatening environment. We ate some good burgers, listened to live music and got acquainted. This time, we only saw a few of our neighbors, but we’re already thinking of doing a “Fall Jam Session and Harvest Festival”.



We’re here! We’re alive! And, we’re discovering ways to let the community know our doors are open and (dare I say it?) we’re having fun, too.

This is one of many steps I hope we’ll take towards being a missional church.