

# New Lifer News



*Dear New Lifers*

by Bob See



Today I want to update you on **some of the projects the elders are currently involved with**. Each of the nine elders is working on one or more of the following projects:

- **White papers** – statements of doctrine and practice on specific areas – it's the role of elders to clarify New Life's stand on issues.
- **New Site Launch** – a team of elders are examining key issues that need to be addressed for a 2011 launch into a new community.
- **Small group improvements** – working along with Josh Trueblood (NL's Community Life pastor) they are considering how to train and support group leaders, as well as develop reporting systems.
- **Elder development** – improving the elder role at New Life including developing a mentoring process for new leaders and creating elder prayer teams.
- **Church by-laws** – revising and updating by-laws

While many of the above projects are primarily internal church "governance" matters, they are the types of matters that keep churches healthy and strong, and it's these kinds of matters that elders are called to tackle.

I mentioned the idea of elder prayer teams, above – this **Sunday evening, April 25, several of us will travel to Dave Butts' church in Indiana to learn about prayer ministry teams**, i.e. teams of elders and prayer volunteers who will minister to people in the weekend worship services.

Also **this Sunday we'll be praying for the team of New Lifers that will be traveling to Poland** – it's always cool to send out a mission team! We're continuing in our series on the Sermon on the Mount and will be sharing a very direct presentation of how to be saved. I am so thankful that a friend cared enough for me years ago to invite me to an event where I heard the gospel for the first time, **Is there anyone in your life that God is nudging you to invite this week?**

**See you on Sunday!**

# New Life and *Technology*

by Kurt Smith

The world we live in is moving at the speed of technology. And technology is moving at the speed of thought. So every day, we get up and we rely on the thoughts and ideas of others to create the experience of our lives. We use technology to wake up, brew our coffee and heat the water we shower with. We rely on technology to get us to work and guide us through the work day. Then we come home and jump onto the information super highway and surf technology as we connect to people across the globe as if they were sitting in the room with us. Ah, but then Sunday arrives and unfortunately only about 30% of our country decides to go to church. We show up and based on our experiences of the previous week, we have needs and expectations. We are with the corporate body of Christ on Sunday morning because we NEED the power and strength of Jesus Christ to charge us up and prepare us for another week of battle in the technical world.



If this is really the case, then why is it that we are willing to accept a church experience that is at best twenty years outdated? Let me stop and say that I am not speaking specifically about New Life. But there is something to be said about where we fit into today's technical world. So to answer the question that so many people think, but few are brave enough to ask, why do we try to utilize technology and media so heavily in the church?

Here's the deal, media and technology is hard. Regardless of the medium, it takes time and specific skills. It takes a lot of work. Why would we use such a large amount of time (our most precious resource) when we could simply stand up and preach? Why go to all that trouble?

The Average American spends 19.2 hours online every week and sends 17,000 text messages in a year. Maybe you've heard that the average American home has 2.4 children. The average American household also has 2.8 televisions. We have more TV's than we have offspring! We live in a media crazed society. It's no longer just a distraction or a diversion, its part of our culture's DNA. In the same way that sculpture belonged to the Greeks, media and technology belong to America.

One of the most startling studies that I have come across was done about the media usage of 7-12 year-olds. The study set out to learn which forms of media were used most frequently by that age group. They did this by measuring percentage of waking time that various media was being used. To my surprise (and the researchers'), they communicated that the average young person spends 145% of their day using one of the various forms of media that were being researched...I'm not a math genius, but even I know there's only 100% possible in this study. What the research revealed is that it was very common for 7-12 year olds to be using multiple forms of media at one time. It's perfectly normal for them to be using the phone, the internet, an iPod and watch TV all at the same time. And we're surprised when they fall asleep in church.

Media is the language of the Millennial generation.

This makes me ask the question, what are we (the church) doing keep them awake? Is there any reason that they should even get out of bed on Sunday morning and come to church?

**For some time now, we have been utilizing several forms of media to enhance the ministry of New Life.** We offer our Sunday morning messages on CD, you can listen to them online, or you can even watch a video of the New Life Central message online through the New Life website at [www.newlifeonline.org](http://www.newlifeonline.org)

Like any organization, it is important to continue to make progress or suffer disinterest and eventually loss of members. As a church, our goal is simple. It is spelled out for us in the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20 which says, **<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

**In light of our mission to tell the world about Jesus, we are constantly challenged with finding new ways of presenting the Gospel so that it cuts through the clutter of all the other messages out there. That is where technology comes in at New Life.** As a ministry, the tech team at New Life has a great opportunity to find, embrace and utilize the technology available to us in order to help bring people into an experience of connecting Jesus at each weekend service. The really cool thing is that with the introduction of venues, we can do that in multiple ways to help even more diverse subsets of culture experience Christ. How cool is that? Really?

**There is an incredible team of volunteers that have committed to using their gifts and availability on any given weekend to take the technology we have at New Life and help people experience Jesus in a fresh way.** From there are currently needs in each of the three venues, as well as sound board operators needed in KidsLife to help with worship. I know that many of you reading this are thinking that you don't know anything about technology or how to run a video switch or operate a camera. It's ok. If you have the desire to serve and see people experience the Gospel, we have an amazing team of qualified people to help train you.

The New Life Tech Ministry helps lead people in worship by supporting every aspect of New Life's services. People learn, experience life, and worship in different ways. Some people take more out of music; others from creative visual displays; and others through the spoken word. It is the Tech Ministry's calling to enhance all of these areas so that people can draw closer to God.

## **The Tech Ministry is broken into four smaller teams:**

- **Audio Engineers: Accommodate all audio needs of the worship team and congregation.**
- **Lighting Engineers: Design and program lights to create a worshipful environment in each service.**
- **Media Team: Creatively program and attentively run the big screens for each service.**
  - **Production Team: Manage the stage and direct all three tech departments in order to help each service run smoothly.**

If you can see yourself serving on any of these teams, I want to encourage you to contact Jason Morris or myself at the church office at 266-9050.

*Next week - be watching for an article written by Jason Morris, with some specific serving opportunities available within the Weekend Worship Ministry.*

