

New Lifer News



Dear New Life Family

by Bob See

The other day as I was taking communion in the Central service I was pondering New Life's mission statement on the banner above the platform, that we want to: *"Elevate Jesus, Ignite the Church, Reclaim the World"*. These are the priorities we want to define our church, but even more, that these priorities would define how each New Lifer understands their walk of faith.

That each of us wants to "elevate Jesus" in our lives, meaning we put Him first, above our own desires, in all areas of our lives: our plans, decisions, future, careers, all relationships, how we use money and time, and so on.

And that each of us plays a role in "igniting the church" in that we seek the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives, that His gifts and power finds a place within us.

Thirdly, that each of us intentionally work to "reclaim the world", meaning OUR world, the circle of relationships God has given you – who are you inviting to small group or to worship services, who are you praying for God to save, how are you living out the role of ambassador for Jesus in your world?

We are pushing forward with plans like launching new sites and locations for New Life, but our hopes to impact this region and beyond for Jesus Christ are completely dependant on the extent to which each of us orientates our lives around the kinds of priorities our mission statement proclaims. Let's pray that God implants these goals in our hearts!

In closing – Vacation Bible School is coming fast! Each year many people outside New Life are impacted by this ministry and lots of kids come into a personal faith in Christ. VBS requires a lot of volunteer assistance to be successful – here are two ways you can help:

1. **Tomorrow** (Saturday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) is a work day at the church, for preparing decorations and materials. There are tasks for all levels of skill; stuff for even kids to do! Lunch will be provided. Even if you have only an hour or so to stop in, your help will really be appreciated!
2. **Sunday** Stop by Kidslife Central and pick up a donation card. There are a variety of items you can loan or donate for VBS. Donations help us keep the cost low!

Many Hands...

by Laura Walters

Maybe you've heard – tomorrow, Saturday May 15th, we are having a work day for making VBS decorations. It will be from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and **EVERYONE is welcome!** We are making LOTS of things to be able to transform New Life into a “High Seas Expedition” for kids. If you have any time to give, we'd love to have you. Even an hour of your time will make a difference! We will provide lunch, but not childcare. Any skill level is fine, we have jobs for everyone – even kids!

Date: Saturday May 15th

Time: 9:00—3:00 (come & go as you can)

Place: New Life Main Facility (KidsLife Big Room—K118 & K119)

Who: Anyone who can come!



A Trip to Maryland

by Jason Morris

A few weeks ago, a whole slew of New Lifers spent the weekend learning to love to pray under the teaching of Dave Butts. Many of us were touched and changed by Dave's teaching and came away from the seminar with a renewed desire to press into prayer. One unexpected outcome of the prayer seminar was the forging of a new and ongoing relationship between New Life and Dave Butts. In the process of preparing for and experiencing the seminar, New Life leadership began to see that Dave's heart aligned so well with the mission and culture of New Life, that it only seemed appropriate for us to explore a further connection with him. So we took a trip.

On April 25th, a large group from New Life including the pastors, some ministry staff, a number of elders and prayer team members caravanned to Terre Haute, Indiana to attend the church that Dave Butts calls home, Maryland Community Church. Dave had recommended that we come to his church to find out how Maryland prioritizes prayer in its weekend worship services. Since the church holds a Sunday night service, we found that we could take a road trip without missing our own morning services. What we saw at Maryland was eye opening.

Though Maryland boasts an auditorium that seats 1400, the feel in the room is intimate. The candles, the colors and the lighting set a mood that is meditative and natural for group and individual prayer. And it's more than just the room. The people in the seats have developed a culture where prayer is lifted up as a high value. In the 90 minutes we spent together in the service, prayer was modeled by the leadership on the platform and practiced by the people in the chairs. There was planned prayer response time at the end of the service that lasted for over 20 minutes, and if I can be a little bit less than logical for a moment: it just felt right.

Saturating our church in prayer has been identified as a major component of our God-given course over the next several years. Weekend worship is a vital involvement for New Lifers, so it makes sense to figure out a way to incorporate more prayer into our services in order to achieve that saturation we're after.

The way that Maryland accomplished this same goal was straightforward. They simply scheduled an extended prayer response time at the end of their services and expected their members to engage God and each other in prayer during that time. A lone worship leader played a guitar and sang throughout the twenty-minute segment, and some people sang and worshipped while others silently prayed. They also incorporated communion into the mix by placing stations up front and encouraging their church body to come forward for the elements at any time. The final result of this approach to weekend services was an intensified focus on prayer and ministry among their church body.

For the next few Sundays we're going to try a different approach to worship in New Life Central by scheduling an extended prayer response time at the end of our services that gives people a chance to come forward and receive prayer without feeling rushed or conspicuous. Music will be interwoven throughout this segment of the service, and people will be given ample opportunity to do business with God together during corporate worship. The Gathering will try this in some upcoming weeks as well.

We're hopeful that New Lifers will open their hearts to the possibility that God might want them to respond in some way as we create a new setting. Maybe a son or a daughter will come forward alone and kneel at the steps as a gesture of public surrender to God. Perhaps a married couple will go forward to receive communion together and pray together as they eat the bread and drink the juice in remembrance of Jesus. A small group might see one of its hurting members up front and surround him with a time of group prayer. **We ask you to be praying for the Holy Spirit's presence and a revelation of what God has for you as we explore a more.**