

Family Ministry/Assimilation/Growth Groups Annual Report

(2010-11) Ethan McClaugherty

“Our Mission is to sow seeds in families whose fruit is to treasure Christ and the ways of God above all things.”

The seeds of this ministry help in renewing our minds to God, in doing so, we see ourselves as the stewards, disciples and mentors that God created us to be. By following God’s plan, we will live out a life that reflects God to a lost world. This is what Family Ministry is about helping families discover a life within the body, at home and at work that reflects God’s love and wisdom. It is done through a four-pillar system that “brings” us to God’s truth, then “builds” us in maturing obedience and then “sends” us out to be a light as: stewards, disciples and mentors to other couples and families.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Four Pillars of Family Ministries: How they are fed.

Biblical Marriage (Mentoring couples, Song of Solomon, couples’ Bible study, Homebuilders series)

Biblical Financial Stewardship (Crown, one-on-one Money Map Training)

Biblical Parenting (Parenting classes, mentoring couples, FamilyTime, father/daughter dance)

Christ-Centered Community (Family events, Sky Sox, Movie night, bonfire, family weekend/retreat, Sunday picnics, home-based growth groups)

2010-11 Looking back, with a quick look forward.

Mentoring couples, Marriage classes and events: We have seven mentoring couples (one new) that have gone through the updated **Prepare/Enrich** Leader Training. We are coming alongside of pre-married, post honeymooners and couples struggling to cope with a new hectic life with kids. We met with approx 21 couples. Our goal is to share tools that will help them become loving, Christ-centered couples. This ministry had its most impactful year ever. Every mentor couple had one to three couples this year. We hope to help over 30 couples this coming year. We also had five couples in the church go through a Song of Solomon study with the Houseworth’s

We also hope to better educate the church about encouraging engaged couples and married couples to strengthen their future together by going through the Marriage Mentoring program. We must educate couples to not wait until there are deep scares and they are thinking divorce before they seek a mentor couple.

We are looking at offering a new study called the Sacred Marriage this spring or summer. It is a powerful book.

Biblical Financial Stewardship

Crown Financial

We have a group of 13 going through Crown training during this winter being lead by Paul Enderle. We have a new leader in this ministry by the name of Brad Gomer who is going to be a great gift to this ministry.

The vision God has given this body is for over 100 couples to become debt free and passionate about being the stewards and servants God has called us to be. This is **still very much alive**. Two couples from past classes informed me this Spring that they had become debt-free and the value it has had in their lives.

If I may humbly re-state, this is a biblical study that **all members** that might be called to be a Deacon, Deaconess, and/or Elder should be highly encouraged to go through ahead of time (no matter one's financial state).

Biblical Parenting

We had a wonderful parenting class this last year that was full and well received! I "humbly" facilitated an Andy Standley series called "Parental Guidance Required." We all learned so much from each other!!

We will have another Parenting Class this Fall.

I became a board member for EFCA RMD "Family Ministry Team." We are dedicated to helping all E-Free churches to see the importance of families having the tools to lead Christians lives in their home life. I will be the guest speaker at the EFCA Family Ministry Dinner at the EFCA Conference April 13th.

Community

The annual **Valentine's Dinner** was well attended again. Pastor Dale Eudy came and spoke and even sang!. It was a great evening. Community was built in a fun way as we saw a large number of families come together for two **Sky Sox** games. We also had small but fun turn-outs for the Movie-Nights but the Comedy Night was packed. We saw community being built during the 4th of July after-church picnic. Growth Groups are creating community as well. All will continue next year.

The **Family Retreat** here at the church was a big hit and Danny Orteli was a smash hit and will return in 2011. But one could see community being strengthened as a hundred plus people ate, played and fellowshiped until 10:00 pm! The high school worship band was a big hit and the bon-fire ended the evening with a lot of joy and laughter as people were challenged to really love each other. We will repeat this as an annual event until the economy strengthens.

In conclusion, God continued to grow and honor Family Ministries here at E-Free and all of us involved saw the power of God as we sought to discover and promote obedience to His Word and to Christ. There are four major and hundreds of minor stories of miracles that came out of this ministry that will carry me with passion as I go into 2011/12. We must continue to push each other as a body to make Christ the center of our home life and decision process. Our faith must grow beyond this building and be a light in our private lives.

ASSIMILATION & GROWTH GROUPS

Assimilation

(Bring to) invite/greet (Build In) discover/disciple/involve (Send) offering leadership skills and roles for their gifts.

We have a good team of greeters with some young greeters coming into the mix.

New people are being given more attention and that information is being passed on to me so when I do call backs, I can have a more personal conversation with them.

GATEWAY (Assimilation tool) I don't do the work on this but it will benefit my ministries

Jim started a program this winter called "Gateway" that is going a long way to building biblical leaders from within this church at a whole new level This will be a wonderful tool for assimilating part of the body from "sticky" to becoming strong, biblical leaders. I am excited about how we can use this

program for lay leaders that do not have the time, money or desire to go to seminary but want a deeper theological wisdom. I pray we will continue to have interest in this study. It could be another successful piece of the assimilation puzzle.

Growth Groups

This ministry has really grown! I am now putting a large portion of my time into promoting, encouraging, training, and maintaining this ministry. This will help to create a tighter community and disciples for Christ. It is also giving couples a chance to create friendships together! Community! I have started trying to meet with two leaders a week whenever possible and I send out an email every week. We have close to half of the regular adult attendees in this church in a small group. That is proving to be an important tool for the work of the Holy Spirit in this body.

Not all growth groups are or will stay Sermon Based and that is more than all right, but I will continue start new sermon-based growth groups for the new people that God brings to this church.

Most of the newer people coming into this church are finding a natural assimilation into GG now, which is very exciting.

The next two years will be critical years as we encourage those in the church who have not become part of a small group and have chosen to keep their distance. It will take intention, focus, and sharing the success that people are finding in their small groups to get their hearts to soften. We will continue to encourage new families/people to find a group while also making sure we have availability to add people to the family of growth groups.

Deut 6: 4-9 is at the heart of this ministry

I ask for -and thank for -your prayers