

FEBRUARY – “Developing Ministry”

***We open the soil and plant the seed,
we water the seed and pull out the weeds,
but God gives the increase!***

OPENING PRAYER. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. Almighty God, in Your Son You called us to make disciples. We are here to plant the good seed and nurture believers in the Word. Keep us faithful to our calling. Amen

READ: Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Church That Works, Part 9 “Developing Ministry” and Part 10 “Small Groups”

Our Bible reading talks about “equipping” the people of God for the work of ministry. McIntosh points out three significant changes in our society that provide the church opportunity for ministry. In the past decade families are in need of wholesome values and safe places to raise their children; we are experiencing a new “baby boom”; the number of people over the age of 50 is growing at a rate never seen before.

ASK

1. What changes have you noticed in the ages of people who have worshipped over the past 10 years?
2. What ministries does your congregation offer for children, youth, young adults, mature adults, the elderly?
3. If your congregation was to start a new ministry to one of the age groups listed in number 2, which group would it be? Why?

DISCUSS

1. It has been said that a healthy congregation reflects in age distribution and in race composition the community immediately surrounding it. How might people “out there” get into your building and your community of faith, and, how might people in your building and your community of faith get “out there” to declare the wonderful deeds of God”?
2. The world is changing and our communities are changing too. Is this a threat or an opportunity for the Gospel of Jesus Christ through your congregation?

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA

Assemble for a few moments at your congregation’s main room where education for children occurs and ask God to bless the staff, children, and families of the congregation.

MARCH’S DEVOTION. “Planning“. Who will the leader be?