

MARCH – “Planning”

God has great and wonderful plans for us. His plans do not fail.

OPENING PRAYER. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. Lord, we thank you for those among us who have the gift of administration and organization. You have a need for each of us. We all fit into Your Kingdom’s work. Bless us with the needed insight and integrity that Your name would be magnified in this place. Amen

READ: Luke 6:47-49

⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

Church That Works, Part 12 “Planning” and Part 13 “Management”

“God, of course, is the greatest planner. From the beginning he has carefully been working out his plan to redeem the creation and lost mankind. To Abraham, God revealed part of his plan by declaring, ‘I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing.’ (Genesis 12:2).” (p. 187)

ASK

1. Some of the greatest events I ever participated in involved considerable planning, grueling practice, and lots of communication. Without those things the events would never have been the thrilling memories I have. True or false, “if you fail to plan you plan to fail.”
2. What do you personally hope to do this year and in three years? What is on your congregations “bucket list”?
3. “When church attendance exceeds 80 percent of the auditorium capacity, people are forced into an uncomfortably close seating arrangement.” (p. 204) Is your Sanctuary 80% full on Sunday mornings?

DISCUSS

1. When I began a new members class I would always ask what drew them to the congregation. I learned many things by the responses I got and I made certain I shared those responses with the leaders of the congregation. Faith is a gift of the Spirit that weaves hearts to Jesus. What draws people to hear the faith generating Word is the “bait” we use as fishers of people. Use the “bait” wisely.
2. Jesus called us to be fishers of people. I never saw a pond go to a fisherman. The fisherman always has to go to the pond. How does your congregation plan to do just that?

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA

Lift up in prayer the education opportunities and ministries in your congregation

APRIL’S DEVOTION. “Staff”. Who will the leader be?