

**MY CHURCH**  
**NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE – STATE OF THE CHURCH**  
**ACTS 2:46-47; EPHESIANS 4:11-16**

**WHAT IS NEXT FOR MY CHURCH?**

1. My church can experience a **dynamic** impact on lives in this **immediate** community (Acts 2:47).
2. **I** will need to make a **strong** commitment to engage in the work of my church. Soul searching commitments like these found in the book *Radical*:
  - 1) Pray for the **entire** world.
  - 2) Read through the **entire** Word.
  - 3) Sacrifice your **money** for a specific purpose.
  - 4) Spend your **time** in another context.
  - 5) **Commit** your **life** to a multiplying community.  
–David Platt
3. I can **participate** in creating a multiplying community in my church right now (Acts 2:46-47).

*“And the Lord added to the church **daily** those who were being saved.”*

**KEY THOUGHT:** The *Treasure Principle* tells us to lay up our treasure in **heaven** and not on earth (Matt. 6:19-21; Phil. 3:20).

**I. MY PASTOR'S ROLE (EPH. 4:11-16)**

- A. **Preach** the truths of scripture, **teach** doctrine, and **equip** the members to serve effectively in a growing church (Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 1:28-29).
- B. **Lead** the team leaders to assist the team's successful efforts (Col. 1:24-25).
- C. Share the best understanding of the Lord's **vision** for the church at that present moment (Joshua 1:1-9; Luke 9:1-6).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Your pastor is to nurture you spiritually, equip you, correct you, and bring you to **maturity** in Christ while you **work** in the cause of the kingdom (Col. 1:28-29).

## II. MY ROLE AS A CHURCH MEMBER (MATT. 9:35-38)

A. Be a disciple.

1. Prayer – understanding its power and central focus
2. Inductive Bible Study – learning to study the Bible accurately for yourself
3. Gospel – understanding your salvation, learning to cogently share it with another, and developing a passion for the unredeemed

B. Be a worker.

1. Faithful – God first, others second, yourself third
2. Available – God’s agenda supersedes your personal agenda.
3. Teachable – learning to apply God’s Word and learn to work on a team

C. Be a missionary.

1. Invest – in the lives of friends and neighbors who do not know Christ
2. Invite – them to church and special events
3. Love – treat them as Christ has treated you, with unconditional love

**KEY THOUGHT:** Jesus sought to finish the task the Father gave Him and obedience to the task nourished His spirit (John 4:34).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**January 1, 2012**

**SUNDAY:** ***Church can be the most exciting part of my life (Acts 2:46-47)!*** The life of a Christian should be filled with hope, purpose, and dynamic adventure. It is the life of divine provision and regular miracles. Your life can be exciting and rewarding. It often begins with your church having a dynamic impact on lives in its immediate community (Acts 2:47). However, for the church to have this dynamic impact on its community, the members choose to make strong commitments. David Platt talks about these types of life changing commitments in his book, *Radical*. Las Brisas is about to embark on the road to maximum impact on its community. Are you willing to pray about living a purpose-filled life that makes significant impact on hundreds of lives? It requires a strong commitment and will probably require you to give up something you are now doing to participate in this adventure. Earnestly pray for the tremendous adventure to begin. ***May this be the beginning of something that will change the lives of hundreds in your community for eternity!***

**MONDAY:** ***My life is focused on the explosive growth of the kingdom of God (Acts 2:47)!*** It is possible that by the end of 2012 we could see someone give their lives to the Lord Jesus on the average of once a month, twelve lives transformed for all of eternity. It is really not improbable that two people a month or 24 would give their lives to Christ during 2012. It is possible that over 100 children could begin coming to Sunday School every week to learn how Jesus Christ can change their lives and the lives of their family members. We could see mothers and fathers giving their lives to Jesus Christ, resulting in changes to every aspect of their lives. Participating in a dynamic ministry like the one described is life-changing. Pray about the commitment that would be necessary for you to participate. ***May the Lord communicate with you the modifications you would have to make in your life to participate in all that He has planned!***

**TUESDAY:** ***My pastor is to prepare and lead the congregation to an exciting life (Eph. 4:11-16)!*** The pastor preaches the principles of scripture to help his congregants live Spirit-filled lives that provide the foundation to significant ministry in the lives of the community members. An understanding of doctrine helps members think as the Lord does on every issue of life. Training and equipping allows members to serve effectively, sharing the gospel and later discipling new Christians. The pastor prepares the workers, motivates them, and equips them. What the pastor cannot do is the ministry itself. The sheer size and scope demands an army of workers laboring together in a coordinated effort. Are you ready to join the army of workers who are committed to changing their community with the gospel? It will require some rearrangement of your life. Ask the Lord again for His leadership to determine your role in the mission plan in which your church is engaging during 2012. ***May the time you commit to prayer bring you great comfort and direction!***

**WEDNESDAY:** ***Vision for building the kingdom of God can empower Christians to strive for what is out of reach (Joshua 1:1-9)!*** It would be comforting if God wrote out a plan for each church and ministry and floated it down to the leader's desk. No such direct communication exists. Joshua was fortunate because he was able to hear the Lord God give him verbal

directions and a vision (Joshua 1:1-9). The pastor seeks direction from the Lord to look at the people He has placed within the church. The pastor studies the history of the church and the ministries they have been successful in the past. After careful consideration and reflection on scripture, a ministry plan is crafted for the particular church. The church must decide to embrace the plan and commit their time, talents, and financial resources to bring the plan online. Often, the plan exceeds the capability of the membership on its surface. Reliance on the Lord's provision and intervention is paramount. Prayer becomes a crucial part of seeking the Lord's leadership and support. The Vision ties the resources, the abilities, and the opportunity together. Pray for an open heart to how you can help your church accomplish the ministry plan that will bring success to the kingdom of God. ***May prayer become a very important part of your life!***

**THURSDAY: *Launching Christians into the ministry is one role of a pastor (Col. 1:28-29)!***

The pastor teaches and equips the body of believers to join in the building of the kingdom of God through the ministries of the church. Launching Christians into ministry is one of the key roles of a pastor. The pastor cannot do the ministry; his ministry is equipping and launching Christians into ministry (Eph. 4:11-16). There is a bond between the pastor and the people as he shepherds them through this dynamic process. Are you ready to fulfill the plan that God had for you when you were saved? You were given spiritual gifts and abilities to be used effectively in the kingdom work. Consider how the Lord can use you and others to advance His kingdom. ***May the reality of God's kingdom be an encouragement for all of us to join the work!***

**FRIDAY: *The Christian has responsibilities to fulfill in building the kingdom of God (Matt. 9:35-38)!***

A convert is not necessarily a disciple. A convert is a new believer and as such does not understand the next steps in the Christian life. Baptism follows conversion and is the first step of discipleship. However, a disciple desires to begin being transformed into the image of Christ. Prayer is not just for emergencies, but becomes like spiritual breathing for the disciple. Learning to study and absorb the Bible on his own is the function of a disciple. Grasping the depth of the gospel allows the disciple to learn to share with a lost person how to find Christ. Furthermore, a passion for the lost wells up within their lives (Matt. 9:35-38). Ask the Lord to assist you in finding your place of service and where you will also receive refreshment through fellowship. ***May the time with the Lord in prayer reveal His priorities for your life this year!***

**SATURDAY: *The disciple is nourished by his fulfillment of his assignment in the kingdom of God (John 4:34)!***

The responsibilities outlined for Christians will lead each to the need to make several decisions. The first is where to serve and how to remain nourished with fellowship and personal growth. The second is to identify the task set before him and make plans to accomplish the task. Jesus said that obedience to the assignments His Father had given Him nourished His spirit (John 4:34). This is a principle of obedience that leads to fulfillment for every Christian. Where is your potential place of service this year? Where will you receive your care and fellowship? These are very important questions that should be pondered and answered with care and the Holy Spirit's leadership. ***May this become a year that you can look back on as foundational in your spiritual growth for years to come!***