

Sunday, October 31, 2010—State of the Assembly Address 2010

### **Introduction**

- Welcome to our annual meeting and three year anniversary celebration.
- On Sunday, October 27, 2007 a group of saints from West Side Grace Church in Muskegon Heights, MI were joined by saints from a Bible study that had been meeting in Cedar Springs, MI in forming what would become Grace Life Bible Church.
- From that first meeting of 30 in the cafeteria at Apex Spring and Stamping we have become the assembly you now see in this room.
- I want to do three things with you this morning:
  - Recognize the accomplishments of our assembly over the past year.
  - Review our core ministry strategy and offer an overview of our current ministries.
  - Present the board's vision and goals for year four.

### **Appreciation**

- Before I list all of the things we accomplished together I must acknowledge that none of this would have been possible without the help of faith fellow laborers.
  - Kitchen
  - Nursery
  - Children's Church Teachers
  - Music Department
  - Audio/Visual/Internet Ministries
  - Conference Works
  - Vacation Bible School Volunteers
  - Buildings and Grounds
  - Book Store
  - Bulletin
  - Treasurer
  - Board Members
  - The Saints

### **Accomplishments**

- The following is a list of what we have accomplished by striving together for the faith of the gospel:
  - Christmas Program and Fellowship Dinner
  - Teen Winter Retreat
  - Sunday Evening Contemporary Service
  - Right Division 101 Sundays
  - Started Printing Ministry

- Published 6 Books some of which are in there third printing already
- Easter Morning Fellowship Breakfast
- Yard Sale
- Food Pantry
- Church Family Picnic
- Vacation Bible School
- Facebook Page
- YouTube Channel
- Hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference
- Ladies Fellowship Events
- Organized Ladies Group
- Basics of Grace Class
- Teen Girls Class

### Core Strategy and Ministry Overview

- When we first meet three years ago I presented Paul's core ministry strategy as the model for how we were going to attempt to do things here at Grace Life Bible Church.
- What was his strategy?
  - He **evangelized** strategic cities to establish a beachhead of believers that could reach into the surrounding areas (Acts 15:36, 16:12, Acts 17, 18:10, 19:35).
  - He **edified** the new believes in sound doctrine.
  - He **established** the communities of believers into organized local churches.
  - He **enlisted** key men that could be trained to carry on the work and lead the churches in his absence (Acts 20:28, Tiuts 1:5).
  - He used the local churches as a base from which to **expand** the gospel into outlying communities.
- Paul needed fellowlaboures to partner with him in the ministry. In order to be successful every ministry needs people to share of their time, talents, and finances. Philemon 24, Colossians 4:11.
- Following this model and your partnership over the past 3 years we have built the following ministry.
- See PowerPoint

### Goals for Year Four

- Given the size of the assembly and the scope of the ministries we are already supporting the board feels it would irresponsible to take on a host of new ministries at this time. Rather we feel we need to strengthen and stabilize the ministries we are already running.

- As the Pastor of this church I have always been sensitive to not burning the saints out with unnecessary and nonessential church work. This is why we have tried to set up rotations for things like kitchen duties, nursery care, and children's church ministries so as not to burn people out.
- We need to not be weary in well doing. We continue to need fellowlabours who are willing to partner with us in the work of the ministry and be faithful to fulfill their obligations. It is only through your partnership that we have built the assembly you see before you today.
- We are moving out of the honeymoon phase of our church and the reality of doing the working of the ministry is settling in. Now more than ever we need to continue to strive together for the faith of the gospel and press toward the mark (Philippians 1:27, 3:14).
- Outside of the assembly we need renew our focus on ambassadorship (II Corinthians 5:19-20). This church will continue to grow only through the faithful efforts of the saints to share the life changing message of grace with our family, friends, and co-workers.
  - Bible
  - Tracts
  - Literature
- Within the church our primary focus needs to be on fostering Bible centered fellowship, community, as well as a family atmospheres and mindset amongst the saints.
  - Fellowship events
  - Bible study opportunities throughout the week
- We need to Be the Body:
  - I Corinthians 12:12-27
  - Romans 12:15
  - Galatians 6:2
  - I Corinthians 1:10
  - Titus 2:2-7—we need to take our God given roles within the local church seriously