



“Them’ Dry Bones”

Ezekiel 37

January 4, 2015

A Celebration of What the Lord Has Done...

| | 2013 | 2014 | Growth |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Baptisms | 27 | 29 | 8% |
| Total New Members | 75 | 88 | 17% |
| Worship | 239 | 264 | 11% |
| Total Worship | 270 | 290 | 7% |
| LifeGroups | 184 | 210 | 14% |
| Wednesday Nights | 168 | 199 | 18% |
| Total Offerings | \$588,507 | \$571,912 | ** |
| Parking (Cars) | 124 | 133 | 7% |

A Celebration of Transformed Lives

- ✓ Those Who Are Now Christ Followers
- ✓ Those Who Have Gone Deeper & Further in Their Faith
- ✓ Mission & Ministry Opportunities

What the Lord Has Done, Is Doing & Will Do

- ✓ **The Dry Bones** Vs 1-3
- ✓ **The Dead Army** Vs 4-9
- ✓ **The Living Army** Vs 10-14
- ✓ **The Future Army** Vs 15-28

CONNECT: Yourself & Others to Christ & the Church

- ✓ Plan on Being in Worship Every Sunday & Get Deeply Connected to a LifeGroup TODAY
- ✓ Invest & Invite in someone to join you @ Petal FBC – Don't stop asking!

- ✓ Join us for Family Friendly Wednesday Nights & 1st Super Sunday Nights
- ✓ With a Ministry for your Age Group: Preschool / Children/ Students / College & Career / Adults / Sr. Adults

GROW: In a Deepening Relationship with Christ

- ✓ Grow deeper in your personal walk - Spend time reading through the Word of God this year, spend more time in prayer, scripture memory, fasting, etc. THIS IS KEY!! SEE THE READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR PLAN.
- ✓ Would you pray like never before – The power is found on our knees and we must do more of this! Join us for our 40 Days of Prayer & 24 Hour day of Prayer

COMMIT: Your Time/Resources to Serve Christ & Others

- ✓ Help with upcoming Church Workdays
- ✓ Find your place to serve at our Annual Ministry/Missions Fair on Sunday, March 1 or even before!! Pick a team in one of these 4 areas and start serving!
- ✓ Helping with Kidz Extreme June 7-11, 2015
- ✓ To the Vision 2020 Plan – your time and resources in a sacrificial way. Be willing to sign a commitment card and bring it on March 1st to commit to going to the next level in your giving and also in your serving.
- ✓ **GO:Share the Love of Christ w/ Everyone Everywhere**
- ✓ Be willing to share the Gospel with one person this year
- ✓ To at least one time this year GO and participate in 1 mission experience in 2015.
- ✓ Jerusalem – Petal – Willing to Go into the neighborhoods Help serve Petal Primary School (Special Meals, Being a Mentor, special projects)
- ✓ Judea – MS – Shekinah Glory (February 28)
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ANNUAL STATE OF THE CHURCH MESSAGE

“Them’ Dry Bones”

Ezekiel 37

January 4, 2015 AM Service

A Celebration of What the Lord Has Done

- ✓ The Lord added 80 new members in 2012 and 75 New Members in 2013 & in 2014 the Lord added 88 new members– 29 By Baptism 59 By Letter/Statement that brings us to 242 in the past 3 years!
- ✓ We have seen our LifeGroup attendance continue to grow this year with from 184 last year to 210 14 % Growth
- ✓ We have seen the Worship average increase from 130 in 2011 to 168 in 2012 to 239 in 2013 to 270 11% increase over last year
We saw 270 total in the building last year compared to 290 in the building in 2014 which is a 7% Increase
- ✓ Even more amazing to compare 2011 (August – December) 126 in Worship to (August – December) 2012 of 198 to 2013 of 249 a 29% Growth. 15 Sundays we had over 300 in the building to 2014 – 283 and 3 of those were over 400.
- ✓ Again on Easter Sunday we saw over 450 people here in the building with us having 2 services.
- ✓ Trunk or Treat with well over 500 people here!
- ✓ We also seen over 80 Families visit our Church this year that filled out Connection cards with many more who didn’t.
- ✓ Family Friendly Wednesday Nights have grown too! We averaged 168 in 2013 and in 2014 we averaged 199 - 18% Growth
- ✓ Our Offerings didn’t increase this year, but when you consider that we had almost \$80,000 in one time gifts, we actually saw a large jump in weekly giving around \$60,000 more.
- ✓ We launched OutLive Your Life Emphasis in May of 2013 to help us finish several projects including the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen with dreams of finishing other space and helping pay the monthly note of just

over \$2 million – We have seen a total giving of almost \$200,000 since we started including 1 time and monthly gifts.

- ✓ Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Mission in 2013 was \$7,585 and 2014 was \$8,022. Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions was \$3373 up from \$3,213 and Lottie Moon was great again, we didn't meet our goal but you gave significantly with \$15,871.
- ✓ Parking - Cars average is 108 cars per week in 2012 and was 126 in 2013 and in 2014 it's up to 133 Our parking lot only has 106 total spaces so we are already out of paved parking. Many of you park on the grass Thanks for doing that!
- ✓ You also gave 200 boxes to Operation Christmas child last year and gave over 250 boxes this year! You also gave 130 plus items for Thanksgiving Baskets compared to 100 last year. Adopted 20 Foster Children
- ✓ Our Children and Student Ministries have experienced record growth as well.
- ✓ **Quick Highlights**
 - Hosted our 2nd Ministry/Missions Fair in February
 - Our continuing Partnership with Mt Vernon Missionary Baptist Church and Bro Carl Burkett
 - Our Message Series of I Value, I Am A Church Member, UTrun the 180 Life, Jonah & The God of 2nd Chances, Why We Are Baptists?, Titus: The Church Inside and Out, Transformed, Thankful, & What's the Big Deal About Christmas?
 - 2nd International Mission Trips to Haiti with 25 people
 - Finished the Kitchen except for the Vent Hood & AC Systems
 - Record Breaking Group to MFuge in MS College
 - Held Starting Point – Our Class 101 for new members two times
 - Feeding Petal School Teachers twice & Football Team
 - 1 Day Trip to Shekinah Glory in Jackson, MS
 - Helped to complete the Hensarling Home
 - Our 20/20 Vision 11 Member Team was launched and met several times this year and meeting this year to help develop and seek God's face for the vision/direction of our Church to get us to the year 2020

- Took our Adoption of Petal Primary further and the unreached/unengaged people group Sanggau Sekadau – hosted an Embrace Conference as well as attended an EIB Training Summit at Camp Garraway

A Celebration of Transformed Lives

- ✓ **Those Who Are Now Christ Followers**
- ✓ **Those Who Have Gone Deeper & Further in Their Faith**
- ✓ **Mission & Ministry Opportunities**

We desire to be radically transformed by God into a people He can use to transform others. The End Goal: Transformation

What the Lord Has Done, Is Doing & Will Do

Background of Ezekiel & the nation of Israel (The Vision)

The End Result is that the people would know... “That I am the Lord” - shouldn’t that be true in our lives too and that of our Church?

I want us to see...

How this relates to us personally

How this relates to us corporately as a Church

How this Relates to us theologically

✓ **The Dry Bones Vs 1-3**

Hopeless – dead – nothing, dry, dusty, brittle bone. Israel as a nation had been devastated, most already deported and only a remnant left and soon Jerusalem would be completely destroyed – that’s where some of you are spiritually speaking. That’s where we were as a Church 3 years ago.

✓ **The Dead Army Vs 4-9**

Here Ezekiel begins to describe the beginning of the resurrection or the return of the Israel. Some of you are described here – you are religious, you have skin and flesh but you have no real life – the Spirit of God – does not live in you or perhaps that life has grown cold – The Walking Dead - Our Church can be the same way – lots of stuff on the outside – looks good – but in reality it is not done by the Spirit. If the Spirit is no in it, it will die, it will not last nor have impact. It is an army that can do little. It can appear that it is to everyone else, but not to the Lord. The nation of Israel thought they were fine – doing all the religious stuff – but the Lord told them – it’s not the sacrifices that I

desire but a broken and contrite heart – it's not about going through the motions, it's about a living breathing relationship with a living God who desires to know us and love us and wants to use us in His kingdom.

✓ **The Living Army Vs 10-14**

What changes? The *ruah* – *the breath or Spirit* of God – the army awakens – before this point it was an army but it was one who did nothing more than rattle their swords. (Like North Korea) But now, they are once again a mighty army ready for battle – can you imagine the noise of this army? The Spirit now lives in them.

This is where some of you are, prayerfully many of you, you are alive in Christ and your life clearly shows that. It is evident by the way you live and by how you spend your life. It's the key word – we'll come back to again and again in the coming – it's people who have clearly been transformed!

Is that true of Petal FBC – that we are that living army? I believe that we are but that we are not even close to the potential that the Lord wants to do in and through us in the coming days. That the Lord would so transform us so that in turn He would use us to be His instruments to see the lives of many transformed too!

✓ **The Future Army Vs 15-28**

Ezekiel was talking mostly to the children of Israel in this text yet as we just saw there is clear application for us today. We see Ezekiel telling them of the nation coming back together as one – the Lord would bring them back but this prophecy goes far beyond that and here we see the picture of the coming Messiah and the picture of the coming kingdom of God and heaven – there will be no more tabernacle, He will dwell with us. We have this to look forward to and the result is that the nations will know He is the Lord – this is our clear call!

The Response – What is to Come

Connect: Yourself and Others to Christ and the Church

- ✓ Invite others to come to Worship and experience what you have!
Introduce them to others – get them to come to guest reception area.
Encourage them to get connected to a LifeGroup
- ✓ Get connected yourself to a LifeGroup if you are not! Everyone needs to be connected – absolutely vital and essential! **(Sign up Today – go**

back to the LifeGroup Table – all our leaders are there and ask questions and find one that will work for you!!)

- ✓ New LifeGroups – we will be birthing new ones throughout the year – keeping the circle open – have regular fellowship opportunities where you can easily invite guests to come in a non-threatening environment.
- ✓ Invest In and Invite someone to join you @ Petal FBC – Don't stop asking!
- ✓ Watch for Guests or people you don't know – introduce yourself – giving ourselves permission to not know someone and ask! Make room for people in the Sanctuary – sit more towards the front and save the back seats for guests that come in late!
Make room for guests by continuing to park on the grass and leaving the closest spaces open for our guests.
- ✓ Join us for Family Friendly Wednesday Nights
- ✓ With a Ministry for your Age Group: Preschool / Children/ Students / College & Career / Adults / Sr. Adults
- ✓ Easter Sunday – April 5th – Bring a Friend Day – perfect time to invite them – Our Goal: 500 people here – largest crowd ever!

GROW: In a Deeping Relationship with Christ

- ✓ Grow deeper in your personal walk with the Lord in new ways – spend time reading through the Word of God this year, read through Bible this year spend more time in prayer, scripture memory, fasting, etc. **THIS IS KEY!! SEE THE READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR PLAN**
- ✓ Would you pray like never before – cannot stress this enough!! The power is found on our knees and we must do more of this! Join us for our 40 Days of Prayer & 24 Hour day of Prayer

COMMIT: Your Time and Resources to Serve Christ and Others

- ✓ Our goal is not to be just busy for the sake of being busy or doing something, but being active with a purpose, to see where God is at work and go there and be a part! Let's be intentional!
- ✓ Help with upcoming Church Workdays
- ✓ Find your place to serve at our Annual Ministry/Missions Fair on Sunday, March 1 or even before!! Pick a team in one of these 4 areas and start serving! Find your SHAPE. (We will help you do this)

- ✓ Helping with Kidz Extreme June 7-11, 2015
- ✓ To the Vision 2020 Plan – your time and resources in a sacrificial way. Be willing to sign a commitment card and bring it on March 1st to commit to going to the next level in your giving and also in your serving.
- ✓ Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions – Send North America – Our Goal: \$9,000 – One Day Giving – April 5th – Easter Sunday
- ✓ Help with upcoming Church Workdays
- ✓ Look for ways to serve – come in with the attitude of not how can someone serve me, what will this church do for me? but instead how can I serve and what can I do for my church family?

GO: Share the Love of Christ with Everyone Everywhere

- ✓ Be willing to share the Gospel with one person this year
- ✓ To at least one time this year GO and participate in 1 mission experience in 2015.
- ✓ Jerusalem – Petal – Willing to Go into the neighborhoods
Help serve Petal Primary School (Special Meals, Being a Mentor – Big rother/Sister, special projects)
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Oh Church Family – if we will pray, if we will believe, if we will put our feet and our hands to the work that He will call us to – great and awesome things He will do in us and through us to reach the city and surrounding areas! I want to make a huge impact and difference right here and even to the ends of the earth? Do you? God wants to do more – will we be His vessels?

Closing ILLUS: James Shoes - Shoes and Food -