



Streetlight

*Join Us For the
Celebration of Our
Twelve years in Ministry
October 26th
Worship at 10:30 AM
Fellowship Meal
Following the Service
Please R.S.V.P for Meal
Call 806 371 0089*

Citychurch Celebrates Twelve Years of Ministry

October 19th we celebrate another year of ministry to, "the least, the last and the lost." This past Sunday morning we had a couple attend church for the first time. Their daughter has been attending our after school ministry on Mondays. I preached a message on heaven and asked everyone whether or not they knew for sure they were going to heaven. The mother raised her hand along with many other people saying that they were not sure and needed prayer. When we offered an opportunity for people to come for prayer, she came to the front and prayed to receive Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Two 12 year old young people came and received Jesus also. Since Citychurch began 12 years ago our ministry has been marked by being a place where *(continued on inside)*

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people are being reached for Christ. When people walk in the door the Holy Spirit's presence is evident. Many people who come during the week to take a tour are often brought to tears just looking at the empty rooms and chairs where children are being reached. We never take the Holy Spirit's presence for granted because He has been blessing us with precious souls since the beginning of our ministry.

In the beginning there were no big ribbon cutting ceremonies, by the Chamber of Commerce or free hotdogs and balloons for the kids. Our family went downstairs in this old building, that two weeks earlier we had moved into and cleaned the homeless and their trash out. We had purchased three dozen donuts and made coffee. We had invited everybody we had ever known to join us for church.

Little did we know that everyone we invited thought I was still suffering from the side affects of a bad liver and my mind was a little cloudy. In fact I knew no matter how difficult or how far fetched the plan seemed to the average person, that God had called our family to this ministry. We came downtown to "the heart of the city" to begin a ministry that would not just change downtown Amarillo, but would change the financially and spiritually devastated neighborhoods of our city. So, when we looked outside we were thinking the crowds of people would be waiting outside the doors to get in so they could join us for our first worship service. Well, there was no need for crowd control because it wound up just being my children and wife downstairs. We decided we would take to the streets to invite people for worship and we invited two homeless guys to come in and have donuts and coffee. They informed us that if all we had was donuts, that it was not good enough. Anna Lea, my daughter, went next door to the Rule Building garage area, which was piled up with waste and filth. There was a pair of feet sticking out from under a large piece of cardboard. She knocked on the box and asked the occupant if they wanted something for breakfast next door. A scruffy head stuck out from under the box, with a hand grasping a half empty bottle of liquor, and proclaimed, "I have my breakfast right here."

Well, it was easy to see by now that it was going to be just my three kids and Diana, my wife, for church. We carried on, though dejected, and worshiped the Lord any way. I shared the scripture from Acts 8 about how God called Philip to leave Samaria and go down to Gaza, which is desert. Philip waited in that lonely spot until the Ethiopian eunuch would come by so he could witness to him. Just as I finish we were standing looking across



the street to where our park is now. I saw an Hispanic couple sitting on an old parking curb. The lot was covered with old broken pieces of concrete, broken bottles and worn out asphalt. They had a double stroller and two little boys about three and five years old. The couple had their heads hung low and looked to be in trouble. I walked across the street and walked up on two little naked children in the stroller, both sucking on bottles full of water. They were wet, hungry and crying. I introduced myself and asked if I could help them in some way. They told me that a man in Amarillo, had promised them a job if they could get here from Lubbock. This was our Ethiopian Eunuch. When they rode the bus to town they brought all their belongings which consisted of a Tide box tied up with rope. The man who offered a job refused to answer his phone and they had spent the night in the post office(*continued next page*)

downtown, because it was out of the weather and somewhat warmer. On that day we brought that family across the street and ministered to them and saw the father receive Jesus as his Savior. Citychurch had found it's way to the right address.

We have always depended on God to do the unusual and miraculous at Citychurch. This past Spring we were able to move into the old Guildy Brothers Feed and Seed building just north of our park. We had to build a new 7000 square foot building to trade for this old building that was built around the turn of the last century.

We had little time and money, but we had to begin working with what we had to convert the showers, restrooms and space of an old feed store and convert it into space to house the 750 people who would come to work at Citychurch this Summer. We worked and spent all the money we could afford to on the building and had some money set aside to feed the hundreds of children we would feed all Summer. Gas was close to \$4.00 per gallon, food costs were through the roof and we had to purchase all the supplies we would need for 10 weeks of Vacation Bible School and provide for the cost of the "Jesus Loves You Celebration." In addition we had to provide for our children to go to three different camps before they went back to school.

Citychurch was in need of a hundred small miracles and a few major moves from God to see us through the long hot Summer. Looking back now, we were feeding 1700 children per day at the end of Summer and had over 1500 children and workers, in Vacation Bible School. We had one of the most successful "Jesus Loves You," celebrations with many people saved. Here we are after all that challenge and we have spent all we had to spend. How does God do that? How do we have the funds needed until the work is done and then appear for all practical purposes as if we have nothing to work with.

We began our after school ministry the other day with hardly enough money to fill up the vans to pick up children from school, but God takes care of us. If you look at the plans most organizations make for their budgets, they prefer the government to provide the funds, or a large grant provider. Citychurch has always preferred the Lord's provision. I know it looks scary sometimes, because you never have your resources in the bank where you can see them. However when you put your faith and trust in the Lord to provide for your ministry, you are allowing God to be glorified by His provision. *Hebrews 11:6* "But without faith it is impossible to please Him,"

OUR VISION IS TO HAVE A SCHOOL FOR INTER CITY CHILDREN

Over the years we have observed two things about our children at Citychurch. One, we have discovered that our children, for the most part, cannot read. The older the child, the more profound the problem seems to be. We have had seniors in high school who could not read on a third grade level. At some point in the education process reading was no longer taught and the child had to make it on what they had. If people cannot read, how much of a chance do they have to get a job, start a business, or read the Word of God? You have to read in our society or you are doomed to live inferior lives, have inferior jobs, and a future that is always limited.

Second, if you are not the type of person who will attend college, what type of job training do we offer you? Trade jobs are certainly not anything to be ashamed of and many businesses are begging for trained workers and yet we have all but removed technical training from our high schools. Welding, engine repair, body repair, carpentry, woodworking, cosmetology, have been removed from most schools. The reason poverty has such a grip on so many of our children is they have little hope of have a job good enough to take care of their families. Hopelessness leads to despair and despair leads to lots of bad decision making.

We want to do more than just observe all these problems. We believe God has called us to do something about the problem. We need some type of business oriented apprentice program beginning at the sophomore level of the students education. We are not sure how to approach this challenge, but you can see what a big job Citychurch has before us.(continued on page 4)

4 LET'S TALK BUSINESS

Citychurch celebrates our twelfth anniversary this month. In the history of Citychurch we have never lacked for a vision of what to do next to reach the disadvantaged neighborhoods of Amarillo. When we first started we had to convince people that Amarillo had an "inner city." So any vision we would share with people seemed far fetched and unbelievable to those who dared ask, "What are you doing in that old building?" Now that we have a twelve year track record, we have a great number of people who have seen the vision of reaching the children in the inter city with the message of Jesus Christ. Not only have people seen the vision they have done what the apostle Paul refers to in *Philippians 4: "14 But it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 And you believers at Philippi know what happened when I left Macedonia. Not one church helped me in the matter of giving and receiving. You were the only one that did. That was in the early days when you first heard the good news. 16 Even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help when I needed it. You did it again and again. "NIRV* People have not just sent a one time gift, but have invested in our work month after month.

"We have come to a time in our ministries life that we are going to need everyone's help in the next sixteen months to reach a goal that has critical consequences for the future of Citychurch."

We have always paid as we went along to build this ministry. We bought vans, remodeled this old building completely and have even purchased property without ever appealing to anyone for the money to do so. We just sacrificed, saved and did most of the physical work ourselves. We have come to a time in our ministry's life that we are going to need everyone's help in the next sixteen months to reach a goal that has critical consequences for the future of Citychurch. It involves something that is the least favorite subject of every church, ministry and non-profit organization. Everyone who gives would love to have their money go to buy the food that is fed to children or purchase the teaching materials that are used for children's Bible studies. There is something instantly gratifying about buying clothes or shoes for needy children; however, food cannot be served to children without an inspected kitchen in a clean building. Paying electric bills, gas bills, paying for insurance and maintenance on the vans will never send goose bumps up your spine or bring a tear to your eyes; however, all these things are absolutely vital to the ministry.

Here at Citychurch we have always allowed "the shoe to tell us how big the foot can get." The size of our buildings dictates how many children we can minister to. We have come up with a wonderful solution to the problem, but it is going to be a real challenge for the next few years.

Border States Electric purchased the major portion of the Nunn Electric building in Amarillo. Later the Border States company decided to build a new building which meant that their property would be for sale. Citychurch entered into an agreement in January of last year to purchase the property which consists of a 25,000 s.q. building and the parking lot across the street. They donated the interest from the cost of the building for two years, with the agreement that we pay it off by January 10, 2010.

The biggest challenge we face here at Citychurch is how to pay the approximately \$250,000 that is due on January 10, 2010. We could hire consultants, print an expensive brochure, have a banquet and pressure you to sign pledge cards. We would then follow that up with mailouts designed to keep your payments up to date on the pledge cards. If we did all of that we would alienate half of you who support us and God would get little, if any, glory for providing what would be given.

I have prayed for the last several weeks for an answer of how to raise the money to purchase the Nunn Electric building and the Lord has given to me, what I believe, is His answer of how to proceed from here.



The New Children's Building which was formerly the Gouldy Brothers Feed and Seed.



The Youth Building at Citychurch was formerly the Nunn Electric Building.

You see, there are times we run ahead of the Lord and expect Him to bail us out when we fail. In my life and ministry I have learned that if we wait on and watch the Lord we will receive His answer.

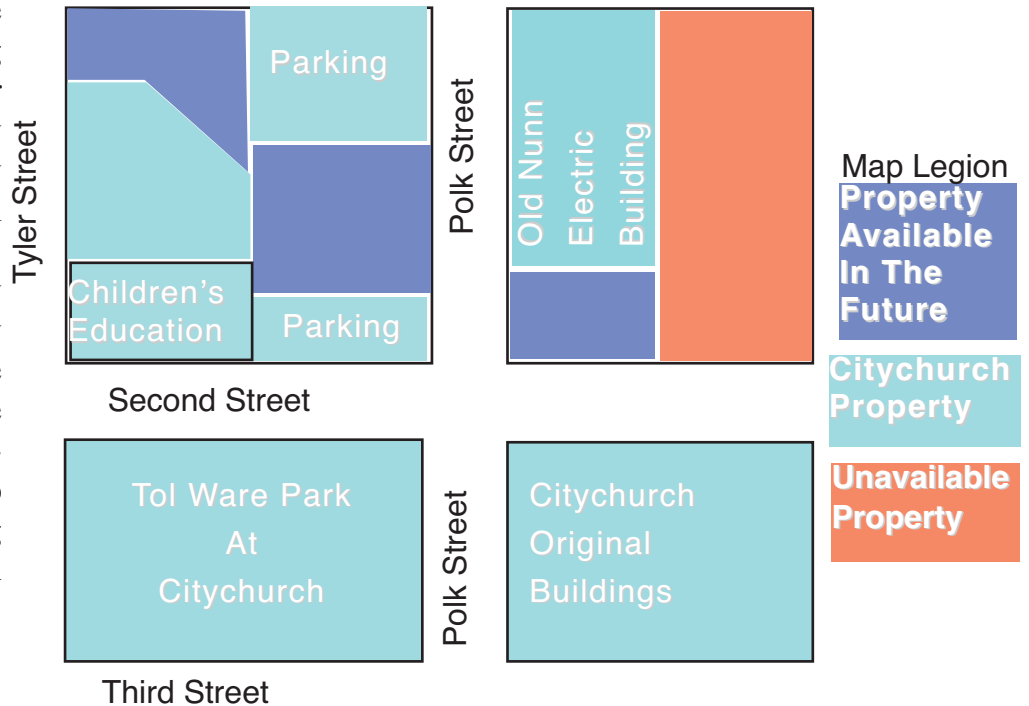
The direction I believe the Lord would have us to follow is the same direction we have always taken. We are going to “tell people what we do

and depend on God.” We are going to involve as many of you who read this newsletter as possible and as many people who are under the sound of our voices as possible. Our solution may sound simple and many may doubt the plan, but God has carried us through twelve years of ministry and He knows our hearts are right in wanting this space to reach children. He loves the children we are trying to reach and He knows why we need the space in this building. Why would God not supply our needs? Our family has learned to call things like this a “Faith Adventure.”

We were on a “Faith Adventure” when we came down here twelve years ago. With no funds, or support, we made a deal on the first building, moved in with funds we could generate as a family working, we built a home to live in upstairs and a place to start Citychurch downstairs. With no funds to start with, we made plans for a park so the children could play and have a good time. Five years later after many of you gave and the Ware Family helped us, we finished a park that now is the most beautiful spot in downtown Amarillo. We needed the Gouldy Brothers Feed and Seed building and it needed to be remodeled. God provided a builder and interim finances and we built a new metal building to trade for the Gouldy building. We then spent the funds and after much work and sacrifice we now have a beautiful new Children’s Building equipped with new heat and air conditioning, classrooms, restrooms, lighting and carpet. All of our buildings have needed major remodeling and updating and without special fund raising God provided and we made it. We call that a “Faith Adventure.”

Already we have had \$50,000 given to kick off the purchase of the Nunn Building and we are praying, saving, and watching God. We want to have half the money needed by January 1, 2009. You need to know that the first week we had the Nunn building our youth moved into the 4000 sq. feet of office space and have filled it up. The first week the Gouldy building was available we moved our children in it for Sunday School. The “foot” felt pretty good having enough room in the shoe for a change.

It is our vision to one day own all the available property shown in the illustration. We have agreements with the owners of the remaining properties to one day be able to purchase them also. In coming months we will report to you on this “Faith Adventure.”
The Shepherd Loves His Sheep,
Don E. Lane, Senior Pastor



6 The King's Academy

In the next couple weeks Citychurch will celebrate our twelfth year in ministry and begin another! I am excited and feel overwhelmed as I look to the coming years. Last year I wrote about the beginning of our school, and this year I am excited to inform you all of the progress made towards the beginning of The King's Academy.

First of all I have to share what a blessing it has been serving with our new worship pastor Rod and his wife Susan. They have added a much needed and refreshing blessing to our Sunday morning worship service and it is hard to remember what we did without them. Rod and Susan have also encouraged our young people and children through worship and were a vital part of our summer outreach and feeding ministry.

Susan is an educator. At the present time she is serving as a substitute teacher with AISD and helping with the planning of our school. Susan, myself and a dear friend Becky Foster who has been an educator in public schools for over eighteen years are working together on a week by week basis sharing ideas, planning, and more importantly praying for the specific needs of the school.

Last spring we visited other private and charter schools in our area. We toured facilities, interviewed teachers and administrators, and got some great ideas. This was all very helpful and inspiring as we work to build the foundation for King's academy.

In all of our praying, planning and research we have come to some conclusions. First of all the need "our children" have for a quality Christ centered education has not gone away and our desire to provide this hope has only grown stronger.



What a joy it would be to offer a Christian education to children who can't afford it. It's not enough to teach our children to fish in order to provide food for themselves, we have to get them to the pond first.

When Becky Foster and I met again recently, we looked over our prayer list from last Spring and thanked the Lord that He had provided for one of the major needs on our list. We now have an amazing education building on it's way to being fully equipped in every way to accommodate up to sixty children. Right now we use the six class rooms and large meeting room for Children's worship time and Sunday school on Sunday morning. We even have an area for arts, crafts, and space for a teacher supply room. There is a need for children's class room furniture such as tables, chairs and desks, but the building was designed and decorated with children and education in mind.

Of course the facility has been a major answer to prayer, but there are still many needs. We are currently putting together the student enrollment package which will include our mission statement, philosophy of discipline, philosophy of education, and student handbook. We are writing this now, and centering every word on the Word of God particularly the verse Luke 2:52 *and Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favor of God and men.*" This is our goal for every student enrolled and will be the crest on their uniforms, handbooks and, we pray, their hearts. We are putting together a budget for the King's Academy, which will include the costs for books, supplies, and general expenditures such as facilities, transportation and staff. Once completed, these tasks will fulfill the initial requirements for the eventual and full accreditation of The King's Academy.(continued on page 7)

Recently, I was visiting with my Dad and mom about the children whom we will seek to enroll into the King's Academy for the fall of 2009. I thought about the names that were coming to our mind, and as we said them out loud I pictured their lives. The children we want to be among our first students are those who are bright, ambitious and desperately in need of someone to throw them a life line.

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Speaking of ambitious, yes it is quite ambitious for this little inner city ministry to set out to provide a quality Christian education for fifty or more students next fall at no financial cost to them. It is also a little risky since the school will have to be ready to operate on it's own and not become a burden to the other ministries of Citychurch.

It is in moments like these we get to, in the words of my Dad, "try God's splendor out!" We have done quite a bit of this over the last twelve years at Citychurch. One particular instance comes to mind. We were in the midst of a rescue effort for evacuees from New Orleans right after hurricane Katrina. We were working through unexpected circumstances with the only money we had left at the end of a blow out summer of ministry. I had to buy more groceries for the hundreds of round-

the-clock meals we were serving at Amarillo's civic center. I went to Dad to ask for what I was sure was the last of our money to go to Sam's. When I apologized for the amount I needed, dad assured me not to worry and reminded me he had connections by saying, "I know the owner of the cattle on a thousand hills!"

I walked out the door and was on my way to the car when a man stopped me who had been trying to reach me by phone. He was a pastor from a Panhandle church and one of his members, who is in the cattle business, wanted to donate some hamburger. I started to laugh because



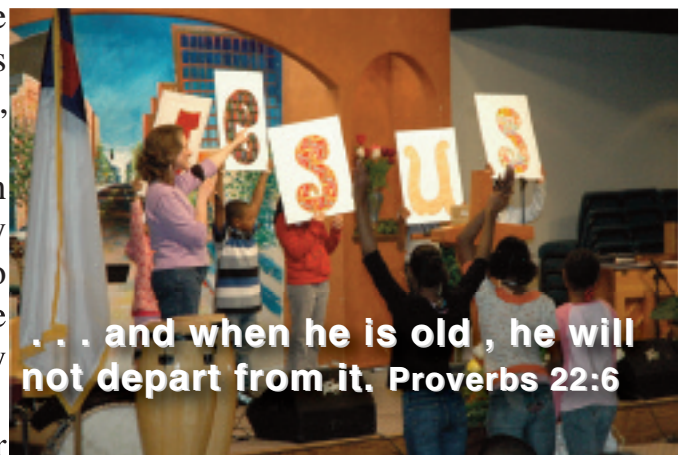
Train up a child in the way he should go. . .

my father's words were still fresh on my mind and here is a guy trying to give me a bunch of hamburger. It would seem the Lord is branching out into the processing side as well. I had to explain the silly grin on my face to this pastor, who is now a dear friend, in disbelief he handed me the business card of the family who wanted to donate the meat. We both cried and laughed at the same time as I read out loud the name at the top of the card, "Thousand Hills Cattle Company" !

As I look at the needs of my family, Citychurch and The King's Academy, I hear the voice of my sweet Savior calling me to look beyond the needs to His hills. He sees the need, He hears our prayers, He owns it all. If I've learned anything it is to trust in my Heavenly Father who never lacks supply.

Thank you for every prayer you have lifted up for us and for your support.

Anna Lea Clement



. . . and when he is old , he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Citychurch

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*Weekly podcast, TV shows,
Sermons and much more.*

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PLEASE REMEMBER



Christmas is Coming

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