

Inspirations

The ACTS Foundation Bulletin for "Wednesday Women Warriors & Mighty Meditating Men"



#785/ "Reach Out to Inspire People to Reach Up!"

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My husband and I move every two years to begin a new military assignment. We have seen God keep His word to bring us a new church and new friends each time we pray about every detail of our move; our new home, our neighborhood, our church, Godly friends, John's Chain of Command and those he will work with. We just moved from Southern Alabama to Fort Riley, Kansas. Within three weeks of arriving, God gave us our home. Within four weeks, we found Legacy Community Church from which God has already given us some good friends.

From the first Sunday we visited, we noticed that Legacy lived by its name "community." Several people came over to us to introduce themselves. Usually the welcome in a church stops there. It surprised us and encouraged us when the worship leader's family invited us and three other families over for lunch. We noticed that they made a pointed effort over lunch to ask each of us questions about our backgrounds so that we would feel welcomed and appreciated. A few weeks later, this church family found out that my husband had to be gone with the Army for two weeks. I began getting several phone calls to see if I needed rides to different functions that were going on. Several people were making sure I was going to come to events.

It is normal for this church family to rotate homes each Sunday after church and serve lunch to anyone in the church who wants to come and have community and fellowship together. There is one woman in the church who was recently divorced and immediately and without hesitation, the Pastor and his wife invited this woman to come and live with them in their home until she found a new place to live.

Most churches my husband and I have been a part of welcome you during the Sunday service and announce from their pulpit "If you need anything, please let us know," but then you don't hear anything else from them. Even if you initiate a phone call to share a need, usually you do not get a call back. Leadership in churches are so involved in their program planning that they forget about the main reason they exist--to meet the physical, and emotional needs of people which in turn will inspire those people to hear the Word preached and draw near to the Lord Jesus simply because they feel loved and accepted from those who call themselves God's people. The church must stop making their title of "Pastor", "Worship Leader", "Associate Pastor" more important than actually ministering to the people in the church.



This little church in Kansas is concentrating on building close relationships with people and trusting God to grow their church. Leadership Tom and Donna make it their priority to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and sensitive to people first and leave it to God to direct the entire congregation in how His church should be built. Unity is evident in this church because Tom and Donna have included each member in their congregation in ministry. The leadership is not acting as one intity seperate from the congregation. Church is meant to be Family, the Family of God in the community.

Legacy Community Church is driven by letting God love people through them through serving others instead of attracting people to programs within the church in order to increase their numbers while ignoring the hearts of people. My challenge to you is that we as Christians need to be aware and open to accepting who God brings to our churches with a motive to love and serve them. We need to be less concious of our positions or titles. Jesus was a servant/King. He comes alongside of us as our Brother. May we be brothers and sisters to newcomers as well as to every member. Blessings, DJ

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