

Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit

(Some results from our All Church Retreat last month)

At our All Church Retreat last month, we had some good conversations about who and where we are as a congregation and where we want to go next. You can get a copy of the booklet from Pastor Rebecca to fill in the gaps. Here are some of the questions and responses we discussed.

How have we already fed the soil?

Evangelism team has been successful	Community awareness is high
New members – kids! – funny, enthusiastic	Finances stabilized!
Average attendance has been rising	Average age is going down
Enthusiasm has gone UP!	More people are involved
Spiritual growth and relationships are stronger	Website
Communication is improving	Disciples Women is growing
Faith growth from sharing the building with ICDC	We are welcoming!
We feel better about our facilities since Miracle Day	Pause for Prayer and Prayer Chain

What season are we in?

Spring – still growing, have been renewed	Summer – had busy spring
Not fall because harvest yet to come	No hard winters, please (can't afford one)

What are some characteristics of our garden patch? (the context in which we do ministry)

Expectation of Baptistness	Share with Iglésia
Assumption that other people already have a church	Some people like a small church
Neighborhood is complex, diverse, somewhat transitory	

What kinds of seeds might we want to plant? What is God calling us to?

Marketing – Community Awareness (radio)	BETTER PERSONAL INVITING		
Youth – Growing a youth group – regular gatherings – camp, when old enough			
Spiritual Kudzu (spreading Knowledge, Understanding, Discipleship, Zeal, Usefulness)			
Study groups	Sunday school attendance	Bible study	More praying
Mission Trips	Hands-on Volunteering	Soup kitchen	Read to kids
Hospital visitation	Nursing Homes	Neighborhood Work Projects	
Community garden	Adult Literacy	Kids Day	
Men's group!	Future Miracle Day support		
Help network within the church	Schools – maintenance, sometimes reading		
Thanksgiving meal	Partnerships with other congregations		
Hygiene supplies for shelters	Kids involved	Christmas Kids Camp	

What weeds will we need to remove?

Technology divide in congregation that leads to communication gaps
Idea that we should try to be all things to all people

What will we need to do to water our seeds?

Personal Commitment – Show Up	More Praying
Nurture less involved members	Daily Prayer
Find formats for Bible Study that work for more people (facebook, evening, etc.)	

Goals that the Retreat participants proposed for the near future

- Increase worship attendance – October-December attendance rally
Including prayer support
- Get study groups going
- Keep finances stable
- Move toward restoring tithe to Disciples Mission Fund
- Men's Group
- Create hands-on mission project
- Address acoustics (echo) in sanctuary
- Identity/Awareness campaign