

“Love Does Absolutely”
Greg Wendschlag January 7, 2018

Abundant Life Vision statement: “Everything for the glory of God!”

Abundant Life Mission statement: “We are a church family devoted to discipleship.”

What gives God glory is when we do what He says to do.
He says we ought to make disciples.

Jesus said, “Go into all the world and make disciples”

That is a command.

Teach them everything I have commanded you, baptizing them, and I will be with you always.

Disciple – follower who lives life according to the will of the one he is following.

If we have become disciples of Christ then two things should be happening:

1. We change and start to look like the one we are following.
2. We do what leader tells us to do.

Everyone is on a quest to be better. Even those who practice self destructive things are on a quest to feel better, get relief, find peace and they are just looking in the wrong places.

Following Christ makes us better.

Don't you want more peace?

Don't you want more love?

Don't you want more unity?

Don't you want more endurance?

Don't you want assurance of eternal life?

Don't you want God in you?

- 1. I have a new identity - Who I am**
- 2. I have a new family - Who I am with**
- 3. I have a new purpose - What I do**
- 4. I learn to sacrifice for the cause - What it costs**

Our 4 Mission Markers

- 1. Identity: Who I am - I am a devoted follower of Jesus Christ**

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

- **I am devoted to learning the Word of God**
- **I am devoted to prayer**
- **I am devoted to surrendering to God.**
- **I am devoted to revealing the fruit of the Spirit in my life.**

The Word of God (devotional focus) and time in prayer is the place to start.

Daily in the word, daily in prayer.

There is nothing more life changing, spirit transforming and behavior changing discipline than time in the word and prayer.

Go to the gym and feel better and your spirit is a wreck. Work on both!

There is also a need to know God's word because the world is rapidly changing to mirror the book of Judges when it says repeatedly, “Everyone did what was right in their own minds.”

What you think in your own mind doesn't make it true.

Man who thinks he's from the Philippines. He's not!
Men think they are women, women think they are men.
People are ok with it...God's not....it's destructive, false and
damaging.
We need God's word now more than ever to keep us secure in the
truth.
It's going to get worse.
We need to train our kids now more than ever to know and trust
God's word!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Cor. 5:17

2018 Goals: 6 corporate prayer meetings, sermon series on the absolute truth of God's Word, sermon series on prophecy and end times, sermon series on personal holiness.

2. Family: Who I am with - We are devoted to one another.

“Who are my mother and my brothers?...Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.” Mark 3:33-35

We need God and we need each other.
The Bible says in order to achieve the fullness of God it is in relationships.
Developing healthy relationships, healing broken ones, gathering with, supporting and helping each other.

It's bad relationships that have chased many away from God.
It's not Jesus people have a problem with but the church. God's people mess things up for God. Yet we are His only plan.

In Acts when people saw the love, compassion, support etc from the believers they wanted that too. Today when people see the negative things they want no part of it.

I love our church but we can do better. We can be closer. We can only be as close as each one wants to be.

- We are devoted to nurturing healthy relationships
- We are devoted to meeting the needs of others and bearing one another's burdens.
- We are devoted to restoring relationships with others.
- We are devoted to gathering together.

Leading the way is the effort to change to an elder leadership model. Why?

Because I need others – not other hired mercenaries – but us, I need us!

I'm only one person with one person's view on life with one person's experiences.

We need a group that can see together – broader, from more angles, with more understanding. We are a body, our leadership must be a reflection of that.

Next week Town Hall meeting – response to the email sent

“You are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ.” Gal. 3:26

2018 Goals: Increase Groups InCommon growth groups, proposed ALAG government change to eldership model

3. Purpose: What I do – We are devoted to making new followers of Christ.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Mt. 28:18-20

When you follow a leader you do what they tell you to do. Yet we disobey constantly this one thing without even thinking about it. We don't win souls to make them disciples.

Jesus told us to do this because people are dying without Him!

We can't explain away why we don't nor ignore the command, "Go into all the world..."

Neither does this command require we all get confrontational and weird.

We do, however, need to be lovingly contagious, developing relationships with people for the purpose of salvation for their souls.

- We are devoted to growing the family.
- We are devoted to mentoring others
- We are devoted to being led by the Holy Spirit to allow God to work through us.

***"Jesus said, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Mk. 1:17***

We are going to help you if you don't feel adequate to share your faith.

2018 Goals: Personal Evangelism training course – Feb-June, 4 Big Day events to reach our community, Apologetics Conference with Dr. Frank Turek – June 9-10

4. Sacrifice: What it costs – We are devoted to surrender our lives for His glory.

"Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." Rom. 12:1

We realize there is a cost to following Jesus.
It is a cost in the present but it is really an investment for eternity.
Investments pay off and make you happy later.

The sacrifices come with time, what we can do and our money.
These are the things that also are most effective in reaching others.

- We are devoted to giving our time.
- We are devoted to giving our talents.
- We are devoted to giving our finances.

“Jesus said to them all, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.” Lk. 9:23-24

Things we do but we can do better.

2018 Goals: 100% participation in missions support, 100% participation in outreach efforts, 100% of ALAG people serving in some capacity