

I've Been Thinking about . . . Our Away Game

by Pastor Chris

On July 4, 1776, delegates from twelve of the thirteen American colonies voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence. (New York did not vote on July 4, but approved the declaration later.) They had a compelling vision: "That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States."

In the winter of AD 57, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome proposing that he and they should be partners in reaching Spain, at the western edge of the Roman Empire (Rom 15:23-33). Having reached the eastern portion of the empire, Paul had a compelling vision: that his ministry of evangelism and church planting be extended to the western regions of the empire.

In 2010, the Lord led Christ Community Church to sharpen our focus on the lost and needy people in our communities. That focus has produced a strategy to "up our away game." God has given us a compelling vision: that we play the away game by extending for the Kingdom as a church in the community for Christ. We will do this by growing our strengths, reaching out, and making room.

What does it take to make vision a reality?

Making vision a reality takes imagination to see beyond the horizon. Benjamin Franklin looked beyond the horizon of thirteen colonies and imagined a nation that would be greater than Great Britain because Great Britain was an island while America would someday span a continent. The Apostle Paul looked beyond the horizon of the civilized eastern regions of the Roman Empire to the vast, untamed western regions where the gospel was completely unknown. Likewise, to up our away game, we need to look beyond the horizon of our comfort zone. Playing the away game means going to other people's fields, where we may not feel so comfortable.

Making vision a reality takes partnership. The thirteen states had to stick together during the Revolutionary War. The Apostle Paul could not evangelize the vast regions west of Rome by himself. He needed the Christians in Rome to partner with him, thereby making Rome his base. Likewise, we cannot play our away game with only half a team. We all must up our away game together. Each person in our church family must do his or her part as the Lord leads, enables, and provides. Collaboration produces synergism, especially when the Holy Spirit works!

Making vision a reality takes risk. If you were a member of the Second Continental Congress in 1776, Great Britain considered you to be a rebel and a traitor. A reward was offered for your capture. By signing the Declaration of Independence on August 2, you pledged your life, your fortune, and your sacred honor to the cause of freedom. The Apostle Paul knew that the dangers to be faced on a missionary journey to Spain would exceed those he had already endured in the eastern regions of the empire (2 Cor 11:23-33). Rome had a firm grip on the civilized regions in the east, but its grip on the west was tenuous. The wild west of the Roman Empire was untamed, all the way to the fringes of Spain. Paul would be at the mercy of "barbarians." Likewise, playing our away game will entail risk. We take risks when we do things we have never done before and reach out to people we have not known before. Sometimes we have to go out on a limb because that is where the fruit is.

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“Standing Firm”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries

Howard Lundeen

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.” (Philippians 4:1 NIV)

As I sit down to write this article, the events of this past week are still fresh in my mind. For many this has not been an easy week. In one day, Minnesota had 39 tornados touch down and three people killed. That same evening the city of Waseca had about 4” of rain and many people had water come into their homes. For some, crops that looked extremely healthy a couple days ago now have sections in the field where the plants are under water. A final local tragedy was the report that a family, who is friends of some from church, received saying that their 13-year old son was clinically brain dead after his 4-wheeler and a grain truck collided.

How does a person cope with life when such testing and difficulty comes? How was Paul able to be so strong while imprisoned in Rome? He says in Philippians 3:1, “*Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord!*” And, in chapter 4, verse 11, he says, “*I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*” How is this possible? How can one stand firm?

I am convinced that two key reasons for Paul’s strength and joy are: First, Paul was continually growing in his knowledge of God and in his personal relationship with Him. Secondly, Paul’s focus was not on earthly things, but on the eternal. As a citizen of heaven, he could hardly wait for the return of Christ and the ultimate reward that would be his. In Philippians 3:20 – 4:1 Paul says, “*But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!*”

For Paul, living was getting to know Christ and making the good news of Jesus Christ known. He dearly wanted others to experience the joy of salvation he knew. At the same time, Paul knew that to die was gain because he would be home with the Lord and free from the results of evil in this sinful world. Paul, because of his close personal relationship with Christ and his priority on the eternal truths of God, was able to experience the joy of the Lord and stand firm when faced with the trials and persecution he had to endure, even to the point of rejoicing in the Lord. It is my prayer that each of us will have joy like Paul and stand firm in our faith.

Extending for the Kingdom: The fund drive for our capital campaign is nearing an end; however, our kingdom campaign continues to increase in momentum. I believe we are just beginning to catch the vision God has for us in our “away game”. Doc & Grace Galvin, while at a workshop at New Hope Church in the Twin Cities, heard that New Hope Church had about 200 small groups ministering to needs of people from the church and community. In my mind, I see the potential for Christ Community Church having just as many small groups bringing the gospel of Christ to people not only in the Waseca area, but throughout the world. If every family viewed themselves as a small group, called of God to boldly witness for Christ wherever family members are each moment of the day, we would have about 200 ministry groups. God

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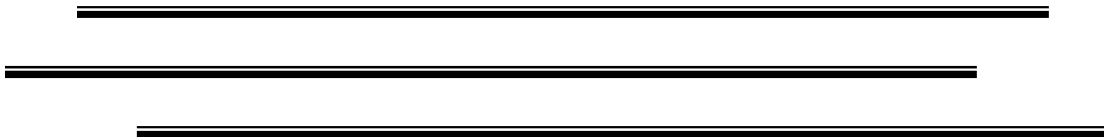
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Making vision a reality takes sacrifice. We see sacrifice in drops of blood in the snow of Valley Forge. We see sacrifice in Paul's willingness to suffer in accomplishing his God-given purpose (Acts 9:15-16). Playing our away game will take the sacrifices of prayer, funds, time, and energy. We will overcome the inevitable hindrances only by sacrifices that will test our mettle. We can overcome hindrances by sustained hope fueled by persevering enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is more profound than excitement. Excitement is an emotion that fades when novelty wears off or when setbacks happen. Enthusiasm is an attitude fed by the conviction that the vision *must* become a reality. We *must* up our away game!

I am enthusiastic over this month's plan to take our away game to Vista Villa. On July 26-29, we will minister to the children in Vista Villa with an outreach that will include fun activities and a clear gospel message. Our away game in Vista Villa is called KICKs—Kids in Christ's Kingdom.

We are upping our away game already! Let's imagine God doing great things beyond the horizon! Let's partner together as each one does his or her part. Don't leave your part to someone else. Let's take the risks, make the sacrifices, and sustain the enthusiasm that make the away game happen!



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“Standing Firm”

in his sovereignty has placed each of us where we are. We need to be light and salt for Him by sharing the good news of Christ through word and deed. We could not have a higher or nobler calling than that of being ambassadors of Jesus Christ and his kingdom! How exciting it will be as we each step out in faithful obedience to God's calling in our lives!

Prayer: Chip Ingram reminds us in his DVD series on spiritual warfare that the most important weapon we have is prayer. In the Bible we are repeatedly informed of how when people were praying, God performed mighty acts. Please keep praying for God's clear leading and empowering as we extend ourselves and our ministries. Pray that we faithfully, in love, will bring the good news of Jesus Christ and his salvation to all whom He brings into our lives.

Pastor Howard



**** Women's Ministry ****

Saturday July 17th

Do you want to go deeper?

Discerning the Voice of God

by Priscilla Shirer

All day Bible Study with Salad Bar Lunch provided

Free will offering for the day

Invite your friends!

Karen Gibson would like to do one-on-one mentoring/prayer/Bible study in August at her home in Janesville. Please call her with any questions, 507-231-6157 or contact Janis Campagna, 507-327-9513.

August 22nd

Fundraiser Meal

September

To Live Is Christ

Monday morning/Thursday evening Bible study

The Life and Ministry of Paul

Begins Sept. 9th & 13th

October 1st & 2nd

Fall Retreat at Camp Victory

October 22nd & 23rd

Women of Faith

St. Paul, MN

!!Be sure and mark these events on your calendar!!





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A heart for God and you

Summer Worship Schedule



*Sunday, July 4 through
Sunday, September 5th
One service from 9:30-10:45 am
No Sunday School classes
5:00 pm - Prayer Meeting*

Staffed Office Hours

	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Tuesday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Thursday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm

Christ Community Church Mission Statement

As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.



JULY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>6:30pm</u> College-age Fellowship	2 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	3 <u>8:00am</u> Elder Development Meeting
4 <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer 	5 <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach Commission	6 <u>7:00pm</u> Congregational Care Comm. <u>7:00pm</u> Property Comm.	7	8 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>6:30pm</u> College-age Fellowship	9 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	10
11 <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>10:45am</u> Special Business Meeting <u>10:45am</u> Anderly Farewell <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	12	13 <u>7:00pm</u> Children's Commission	14	15 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>6:30pm</u> College-age Fellowship	16 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	17 <u>8:30am-3:30pm</u> "A Day in the Word" - Women's Study 
18 <u>8:00am</u> Joint Commissioner Mtg. <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	19	20 <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	21	22 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>6:30pm</u> College-age Fellowship	23 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	24
25 <u>9:30-10:45am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	26	27	28	29 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>6:30pm</u> College-age Fellowship	30 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	31
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <i>KICKs (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) Outreach at Vista Villa</i> </div>						