

NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

MARYVILLE, TN

STRATEGY PRESENTATION

DEMOGRAPHICS AND NEEDS

On any given Sunday, fewer than 10,000 of the 105,000 Blount county residents attend Bible Study. There is a poor strategy in reaching the lost and ministering to the saved in this section of East Tennessee. Many churches are struggling with evangelistic outreach, assimilation techniques, worshipful services, and dynamic Bible teaching. If we train people to be consumers instead of Christians with a desire to serve others, we will end up with customers instead of disciples.

The church first needs to know its internal environment. One must know characteristics in terms of age, education, race, and where people live. Some key questions have been analyzed and studied to help determine the proper name and location of this new church plant.

Identifying the People- The target group consists of a population of some 28,000 people in the Maryville area. Of these, almost 7000 are under the age of twenty. Approximately 8100 are between the ages of 20 and 44. There are approximately 11,000 households with a median age of 40. The average income is \$23,000. The major race is white (97%) with African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics following in a far second with 1.5% of the population in each. Blount County consists of Factory/Farm families and Affluent families. About 15% of the individuals are retired. In Blount County there are no residential zoning restrictions.

Identifying the Needs- According to phone surveys, we have found that almost two-thirds of the individuals that were contacted claim to be involved in a local church. However, according to the Chilhowee Association of Baptists, only 8% are involved in a Bible study. In 1970, there were 63,000 people in the Blount County area. Among these, about 9,000 were attending Bible studies in a Baptist church. In 2000, there was a population of 105,000 with 9,600 attending Bible studies. The population has grown more than 40,000, but Bible study attendance has grown only 600.

According to Chilhowee Association of Baptists Missions Coordinator, Jim Snyder, "We are a nation under God, yet we have a generation of people that do not fully understand that." He concluded by saying, "It is our own fault. Our churches must reach out and share." Through phone interviews, we have discovered an overwhelming desire

for God to be put back in government, schools, and the homes of East Tennessee. Individuals are tired of families ending in divorce and teens living rebelliously.

Identifying a Target Area- The Target Area selected for this church plant in the Blount County area is in East Maryville. The target area will need to be refined because of the interstate coming through this section of East Maryville in a few years. According to Tennessee Department of Transportation, there will be a four lane road (Hwy 33) connecting to Highway 321. There would be immediate growth but within a few months, there will need to be a drastic change.

Identifying a Name- The name of New Life Baptist has been selected for the church plant. The name, Baptist, was included because this area is very traditional. Not long ago it would have been considered a small town. Also, more and more people are moving to this area. With Baptist in title, the church may receive transfers of membership.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH - PARADIGM

At New Hope Baptist Church, we believe in the growth and development of all believers. Our church hopes to provide the nurturing and care for both young and old believers in Christ. In addition, we desire to develop our members into individuals capable of expanding and reaching out to those who don't know Christ. In essence, the ultimate goal is the introduction of the new life in Christ to non-Christians. Although it may seem overly complicated or possibly even under developed, it is the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18 states "therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

As seen, our philosophy of ministry at New Hope is not only biblical, but it is also growth oriented. Because of our desire to see lives being changed through growth in Christ, any paradigm used to describe the church philosophy must be focused around an object of growth. Although churches such as Saddleback, First Baptist Atlanta, and New Horizons Fellowship have effective paradigms, their underlying purpose is not revealed. Each of these paradigms accurately expresses the different aspects of the church, however they do not distinguish or identify the central purpose for having such facets. In attempt to identify purpose and explain church areas, New Hope has selected a tree and all of its' parts as our paradigm. In addition to the tree and its' parts, the base of the tree is shaped in a cross. By placing the cross in the center of the tree, the idea of all growth occurs through Christ is expressed.

The tree paradigm proclaims our churches excitement and investment into growth of the church, its members, those in our community, and others all around the world. As people are introduced to the New Hope paradigm, they can immediately identify this growth emphasis. However, they are not just left with a message of need for growth and no direction. Often times, churches and ministries point people in positive directions. Unfortunately, many times no

guidance or true path is given to reach that destination. In hopes of avoiding such carelessness, the New Hope paradigm effectively sections the growth process into 5 main areas of development. These 5 areas include membership, magnification, maturity, ministry, and missions. In correspondence with each of the different aspect of the process, a specific part of the tree has been identified to represent this growth area. Each part of the tree serves as a growth parallelism between itself and the church. These parallels are accurate, easily understandable, and positive. The 5 aspects of the paradigm and their parallelism are detailed in the following paragraphs.

The first concept of the New Hope paradigm is **membership**. The roots and ground level of the tree express membership. In parallel, membership is considered to be the beginning of the growth process at New Hope Baptist Church. Of course, the roots and soil are the essential elements and beginnings of a healthy tree. The better the tree is rooted, the healthier it will then be. At New Hope, we also believe in such a philosophy. We believe that the better our church members are rooted in their salvation, God's Word, and our doctrine, the healthier their spiritual growth will be. In addition, fruitfulness of the believers such as love, peace, patience, kindness, etc. will naturally grow faster. As seen, another parallel with a real tree has been made. The healthier the growth, the better the fruit. In attempt to truly root our new members, several different requirements exist before membership occurs. These requirements include a New Hope 101 class that would require each prospective member to share their testimony and acceptance of Christ. In addition, this 10-week class would also include biblical and church teachings along with items such as leadership, elders, tithing, discipline, church structure, etc. Matters such as scriptural baptism would also be included in the membership process. Once an individual has completed this process, their roots are strong and he/she is ready for future growth.

The second step of the New Hope paradigm is **magnification**. The very base of the tree represents this aspect of the paradigm. The magnification aspect of the process includes worship. Such an area of growth is not limited only to musical worship, but also includes praise prayers, personal joy, etc. Of course, music is always still the key element in this stage. Such worship may be with a praise team, personal time, or even congregational singing. The importance and significance of having magnification at base of the tree is very simple. No matter how young in the growth process an individual may be, it is never too early to begin praise. In fact, some of the most excited people about Christ are those who have just accepted Him. In addition, if joy in Christ does not exist, it is very difficult to move further on in the growth process.

The third step in the New Hope paradigm is **maturity**. The maturity aspect of the paradigm is closely associated with discipleship. This aspect of the paradigm is identified and paralleled with the upper base and bottoms of the branches. The significance of this area in the tree is the way in which it is still developing, but yet really preparing to branch out into more growth. In this stage of growth, believers can really begin to dig in and investigate God's Word. Small groups, personal discipleship, seminars, devotions, cell groups' curriculum, etc. help nurture this area of growth. In addition, maturity being placed closely next to

the cross in the tree is essential. This represents the understanding that Christ was the ultimate teacher and He lived 33 years on the Earth to provide us with an example. In the maturity stage, we learn as much about this example as possible.

Finally, the fourth and fifth components of the paradigm are very similar. These two include *ministry* and *missions*. The purpose of the ministry team is to help every member in the church find a meaningful area of service that uses his or her gifts and interests. However, missions is more related to helping individuals establish their life goals in helping spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Although they are somewhat similar, they are also quite different. The placements of these two stages in the paradigm are as individual branches. These areas have required all other areas of the tree to be functioning. In the same way, ministry and missions are never effective or desired if maturity and magnification do not exist. In addition, note that neither is higher or lower than the other. Both are key elements of the process and are a result of past growth.

In conclusion, the tree paradigm at New Hope Baptist church is on that not only expresses its' purpose of growth, but also the means of achieving it.

FELT NEEDS FOR NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

David Foster, who is working on a possible church plant for the area around Crates Drive - a trailer park - in Knoxville, Tennessee, has created a potential model for meeting needs in his ministry. He has been working at this site for nearly three years in a part time fashion. One of the things he expressed to me in dealing with multi-housing facilities was, there are very private until they get to know you. Once they see that you are not collecting money for bills or someone trying to get information for some else, they begin to wonder why you are there because most people do not care about what happens to these people. The first thing you must do is to show them you really care about them without trying to get anything from them. You must work at their pace, not yours. If you try to force them in to anything before they are ready, they will shut you out completely. We found this to be true upon visiting the site. During one of our trips to the site, one member of our team was asked to leave the area.

We of course returned to the area at a later date, and we found several needs the people felt were needed with in their neighborhood. Since the largest part of the homes in this area is trailers, the needs will reflect the people of this economic class. This church will not be limited to the people of the trailer parks in the area, the percent of the population percentage in this area live in trailers. We found that most of the people interviewed felt these needs were common in the area. However, we do not want the people to feel like we are coming to their community to beat them over the head with the Bible, like they are some sort of target for us. We want to let them know we care by our actions, not just our words that we care.

We broke the needs down into four different categories. These categories are:

- Children and Youth Needs
- Health Related Needs
- Financial Related Needs
- Labor Related Needs

Children and Youth Needs

In the area of children and youth, we have three sub-categories:

- Tutoring
- Events and Activities
- Babysitting

In the area of tutoring, we noticed several things we could do. Many of the families do not have a single parent who has the educational ability to help their children with their homework. With the major changes in math, writing, and science since they were in school - many never finished school - the parents do not know how to help their children.

To overcome this problem, and hopefully break the chain of dropping out of school, we would like to have some of the people from the sponsoring church volunteer their time to help tutor the children in basic school homework. This would help show we do care about the people of this community and, maybe, the children would not become discouraged in school and drop out feeling like they could not learn. We would like to set up a room for tutoring with a computer lab contained inside. We could hold computer classes to teach the youth as well as their parents, how to use a computer in various skills to help obtain the skills needed to get a job. We would teach how to do research on the Internet and complete school projects.

This may sound like an expensive project to start up, but we could get many computers from other churches, companies, and individuals, when they upgrade to a better computer. We could use the computers most people consider "obsolete." To a person who could never afford a computer, one that is considered obsolete will do the job it was created for without any problems. These computers may not be the fastest, but it will accomplish what we would need to teach the people and that is all that they need.

This group has rented a trailer within the community, renovated it, and turned it into a computer lab and tutoring area. People volunteering their time to help the children and youth run it. Twice monthly, they use this area to hold craft classes for the parents. This has been one of the things that have helped gain acceptance in their community. We could get some Eagle Scout candidates to build computer workstations for this lab. The Scouts would have to raise the money which is part of their project requirements.

The second need seen in the area of children and youth would be activities for them. We would like to eventually do things like backyard Bible studies / VBS but we feel we should do some other activities to further gain their approval. One of the first things we might want to do is to have some cook outs with the people during the summer months. We not only want the people to get to know us, but to get to know each other while attending an event put together by us. This would help build a unity within the people and that unity would be associated with us. We could even have some special dinners for the community through out the year.

Another area we could help meet the needs of the youth is to join with a sponsoring church's youth group to go bowling or on a lock out. The cost would not keep anyone from being able to go. We would do whatever we could to provide the money to allow them to join in. If we needed to, we would try to get a van to provide transportation to any event our sponsoring church was doing.

For the children, we would ask the Sunday School classes at a sponsoring church to help sponsor a child to Camp Ba Yo Ca. The cost is \$175 per child. It would be our goal to have twelve boys and twelve girls be able to go the first year with out having to pay anything for the trip.

If there was enough interest, we could ask the sponsoring church if we could use their recreation facilities to provide the children with a sports league, basketball for example. If we needed to, we could do a three-on-three league. There would be coaches for each team and they could be taught all aspects of the game. Again, we could provide transportation to and from the games.

Once we have built up a trust with the people, we could provide a Christian Day care or babysitting service. We could use people from the sponsoring church, core group members, and parents from the community. After school, some of the older teens could help out with this service. There could be a small fee for the service, but not too great to keep the parents from going to work.

We could provide a certification service for any teens wanting to do some babysitting in the area. Many hospitals provide this training for a minimal expense. We could try to have someone come teach the course at our tutoring lab. This would help re-circulate our own community within itself helping to eventually be able to move away from dependence upon the sponsoring church. This would also help to provide some economy to the community.

Another area of need for the parents of children would be to set up a parent's night out. Parents would bring their children to a certain location. A few couples would stay with the children that week. The next time, a different group of parents would be assigned to stay with the children while the rest of the people go out. Many couples could not afford to pay for someone to come baby-sit and then pay for the things they want to go do. This would give many of the parents

a chance to get a break from their children and bond with their spouse, helping strengthen the marriage.

The final need in the area of children and youth would be creating a mentoring program for the children and youth. Many of the people living in this community are single parent families. We could start a Big Brother / Big Sister type of program for these children. Taking the time to help the children and youth, we will be showing the parents we truly care about the people of this community.

Health Care

The second area of need we found was the area of health care. In simply talking with the people, we noticed they needed the help. They were also quick to point this out to us. One of the ways we felt we could help in this area would be to ask for some of the doctors that attend the "mission minded" churches in the area, to volunteer their time to provide a basic check up for the people. We might even try to get a dentist to provide some basic dental help as well. Many of the people had some serious dental problems.

Another area of health care that we could provide these people would be to have a day every couple of months where a nurse or two could come out and answer questions. Anything that we can show that we truly care about them, including their health and the health of their children would help open the doors more quickly.

The final need we saw would be to start up a homebound ministry to those in the area that cannot get out. We could run errands for them or even bring a hot meal occasionally. But one of the best things we could do is to just visit with them for a while. The key is to show we care about all age groups.

Financial Help

The third area of needs we saw was financial help. This does not necessarily mean we would give them money, but to show them how to budget and take control of what little they do have coming in. We could provide them with some financial seminars to teach them how to survive in this world with little money.

Another thing we could provide would be tax assistance, so each family could maximize their income and returns. Many of these families do not know the tax laws and cannot afford person to do it for them so they miss out on many deductions they are entitled to.

One of the things done by David Foster was to notice what furniture each family needed. David would tell each person that the group would pray for the need to be met. They would present this to their sponsoring church's Sunday School classes and ask if anyone had any extra furniture the needed to get rid of. This furniture was then brought to the families in need. Toys were also brought

for the little children. "It was amazing to see how God always seemed to provide exactly what we needed for these families exactly when we needed it.

A fourth way we could provide a need would be to establish a food bank for these people. Many companies, Panera Bread for example, give the excess food they have each day to local churches and missions to use in their food banks. We could set up days where we go around and pick up certain items on certain days and deliver it to the community.

The final way we could help would be to help people with their utility bills. This does not necessarily mean we would pay them but many of the utility companies have programs to help the lower income families. We could try to help them get enrolled in these programs. If we needed to provide some money occasionally, we would do what we could.

Labor

The final area of need would be the area of labor. We could help these families take care of their yards, which is really all they have. We could do some mowing and lawn care for those who could not do it for themselves.

Another need would be for help in auto maintenance. We could have some of the people come and help fix the cars of the people in this community. Many people do not have the money to pay for a mechanic but could buy the parts if they had someone to put them in. This would eliminate the problem of them not being able to get to work since they do not have any form of transportation.

The final need we found was the area of job searches. We would provide a list of available jobs in the area and post them with the job qualifications. If there were any way that we could help these people get better jobs by helping them gain more qualities for the job market, we would do that. We could provide them with classes on computer programs being used in the business world, as stated earlier. Or, we could help them draft a resume to show the employer what qualifications they have and how to phrase these qualifications so they would be a better candidate for the job they are going after.

This is going to take some time. We cannot expect to do all this over night but if we could implement a few at a time, we know the Lord will guide us into potential areas that will lead to this area being penetrated with the gospel.

EVANGELISTIC STRATEGY

New Life Baptist Church will attempt to utilize several different means and methods to help assimilate both the church to the community and the community to the church. New Life will use mailers, doorknockers, banners and

advertisements to help get the new church known within the community. This level of assimilation will be more informational and non-aggressive. Once New Life has exhausted these means, they will move to the next level of assimilation. They will begin to advertise using some of the same means, but not just for information, but to invite. New Life will attempt to administer a community survey that is simple, but yet to the point. Once the data has come back from the survey, New Life will use the information to make the next level of assimilation as successful as possible. New Life will once again use the means available to them to invite the community to a church that desires to meet the needs of the community. The heart of New Life will be to reach out to a variety of people, both churched, unchurched, and formerly churched. When it comes time to doing all the leg work, New Life will be able to use mission groups to help with the mailings, door-knockers, survey, and phone-a-thons. All of the advertisement in the second level will lead up to pre-services and our launch service.

As the church becomes known within the community, New Life will move into a third level of assimilation. This level will again help evangelize the community, but it will also be used to continue to build relationships with the families. This level is a ministry strategy. New Life will attempt to provide certain ministries based upon the community surveys and the felt needs of the people in order to know what ministries to introduce to the community. These ministries will provide opportunities to serve the community along with share the gospel at the same time.

Once the third level of assimilation takes place, we will attempt to develop and expand our core group. Upon gaining the communities trust, we will attempt to assimilate the crowd into becoming the congregation. Once they have moved to this level, then there will be the challenge to have the congregation become the committed. When New Life has a group of committed members, then there will continue some intense discipleship which will help move the committed to become a part of the core.

Lord willing, the core will originally consist of several members from neighboring churches that have agreed to support New Life both with workers and with finances. The core will grow from the members that have undergone and successfully completed the discipleship training at New Life. As the core group grows, eventually there will come a time where the core group will multiply and continue to grow in other areas of ministry. As New Life continues to grow, then the leadership of the church will also advance in their areas of discipleship, ministry, worship, fellowship, and evangelism. Once New Life is ready, then the church will begin to implement different evangelistic programs.

The congregation of New Life will be strongly encouraged to partake in the different ministries that are available. Each member will be given the ability to discover their individual spiritual gifts, and then encouraged to use their God-given talents to bring honor and glory to their Lord in ministry. Not only will there be the training of specific ministries, but there will be the teaching of the churches responsibility as a whole. Every member is commanded to learn and walk a path of integrity and purity. Every member is taught to love his or her neighbor and to serve the needy of this world. Every member is taught and commanded to share

the gospel and evangelize the lost. Not only will New Life be instructed in personal evangelism, but there will be a discipleship of corporate evangelism as well.

The evangelistic strategy that will be implemented at New Life Baptist Church will be two different programs. The first type of program that will be used is called the G.R.O.W. strategy. This type of program is a great entry-level ministry that will enable people who have never been a part of an evangelistic ministry to learn and grow in this specific area. GROW enables a church to ask its membership to commit to fifteen hours of evangelistic ministry for the entire year. Each member will be asked to commit to only one night a month of ministry. The member will commit to one of four nights a month, and they will agree to minister on the same night every month for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes each month. Each month, there will be established four different teams, one for each week of ministry, and each team would have a team captain. As the teams assemble on their given night, they will sign up to three different types of ministry. Either they will hand write specific letter, make specific calls, or agree to be a part of a visitation team. Each week, there will be a different team leading in the ministry, and it will allow new comers to become involved at an easier pace.

If a member commits to writing letter by hand, then they will be given sample letter and all the necessary supplies. The member will hand write a letter that has a specific audience and purpose in its wording. If a member agrees to make phone calls, then they will be given a list of phone number with all the necessary information, a script to use while making the call, and the reason for the call. If a member agrees to visitation that night, then they will be a part of a team which has a couple visits to make that night. The team will again be given all the necessary information about the family and the church. They will attempt to make their visit, and record the outcome of their visit with each family. Before any member signs up for any team, they must complete a four week course which will begin to prepare them for the exciting ministry in which they will be come a vital part of.

GROW is meant to be a simple evangelistic tool which will allow members to begin to become exposed to ministry in a non-threatening way. It will be used to make phone calls, write letter and make visits at the pace of the person. As their comfort level grows, so will their confidence and their ministry. Even though there is more to GROW than what is mentioned here, GROW is a great tool to introduce people to ministry, and ministry to people.

The next tool that will be used is called the FAITH strategy. FAITH is a tool of the Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Convention. FAITH is probably one of the greatest tools which has hit the church in the past ten years. FAITH is a program that is focused on evangelism and ministry. There is ministry to the membership of the church and especially the Sunday School. There is evangelism to the rest. FAITH is set up as a sixteen-week commitment. A member will commit to sixteen weeks of training and visitation with a team. FAITH is designed to grow the small groups, the core groups, and the Sunday School and therefore the membership. Each week, the members of FAITH

gather for an hour of training in visitation and evangelism. FAITH is very strong in both ministry and evangelism. It trains both new and old members how to effectively minister to Christians, and FAITH also gives the member great confidence and ability in sharing the gospel. FAITH is designed for visitation each week, with a joyous time of celebration each week at the conclusion of the visitation time. This type of program can be used for new Christians, but no matter who agrees to this program, there must be strong commitment in order for this to work and grow effectively.

Whether GROW or FAITH is being used, the strategy will be to contact several different groups of people. We will contact those who have recently moved into the area, those who have recently been married or had a baby. We will contact those who have visited New Life along with surveying the nearby community. We will contact members who have special needs or those who have been absent from Sunday School and church. No matter who will be reached, the goal is to minister to their needs, and pray that God uses our best efforts to share the gospel and to make a difference in the lives of the people we encounter. We will pursue to emphasize the Great Commission and the Great Commandment in our church, and in doing so, we will try to grow the five major kingdom principles in our midst with God's leading and blessing. And by growing the kingdom principles, then God, Lord willing, will grow New Life Baptist Church spiritually, numerically, in ministry, and in missions. The main reason behind implementing these strategies is to be obedient to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The other reason to emphasize such programs is out of a heart of love

WORSHIP VISION

New Life Baptist Church is committed to a multimedia, holistic worship involving and engaging each of the five senses as well as the heart and mind as we seek to live out the analogy that we are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). We will do this through "Life Teams" based on these very five senses.

Life Teams

SIGHT: This ministry is designed to give both regular attendees and special guests a "Vision of Life." New Life commits to clean and neat worship, office, cell group, and multi-purpose facilities. Our "See Team" will be actively engaged in the continuing task of facility upkeep, renovation, and aesthetics. This team's focus will be on making sure the physical gifts God blesses us with are always at their pinnacle of condition. We cannot expect churchgoers to give their best in attention, time, and funds if we do not show that their gifts are both treasured and protected through good and faithful stewardship. New Life will seek to be contemporary and yet cozy in its appearance. Our facilities will be supplied with plentiful amounts of ambient light from both above and numerous glass atrium walls and green plants. An open-air feel will make a small space

seem less constricted and will add to the sense of freedom that we wish to be associated with an acceptable act of worship. This sense of airiness and greenery will be but a visual taste of the newness of life that you can come to expect at New Life Baptist Church.

TOUCH: This ministry is designed to give our special guests “a Touch of Life.” From the moment of arrival, guests at New Life Baptist Church will receive these “Touches of Life.” Guests will be greeted as they approach the doors as our special “Touch” ministers engage them in welcome and pleasant conversation by introducing themselves and receiving an introduction. The result will be a family or individual that feels truly appreciated and welcome to be our special guest. We want everyone who comes to a New Life event to feel needed and appreciated. Touch teams will pass off their new friends by introducing them to other “Touch” ministers located inside. Before a guest will have entered the New Life worship experience they will have already heard their name spoken and been welcomed three to five times. This should break down any walls of nervousness and make our special guests feel as if they are nothing more than a member of the family that we haven’t seen in a while.

TASTE: This ministry is designed to give our special guests “a Taste of Life.” “Taste” ministers will work hand in hand with our Touch team to both give them a quick bite to eat of a delicious danish or biscuit and jelly and a cup of coffee or juice and give them a “taste” of what the New Life family is all about. This group will be a large, well-informed group of men and women who are not only active but also committed to New Life Ministries. They will be able to educate our special guests as to ministries that the church is involved in such as the cell group that they lead as well as giving them a friendly and familiar face to enjoy worship with.

EARS: This ministry is designed to help our special guests hear the “Sounds of Life.” The “Ears” ministry will be focused weekly on hearing from God His message to worshipers so that they may construct a God-led worship experience each week. This group’s responsibility primarily contains what takes place in during New Life’s worship experience. They will work closely with the Preaching Pastor and the Worship and Music Minister to compose a weekly worship that both transforms the mind and lifts the spirit touching the very throne of Life. Members of a singing praise group along with a worship band will be included in this ministry team. Also involved in this “Ears” team will be individuals gifted in dramatic presentation as well as audio and video production.

SCENT: The “Scent” team is a group of committed individuals headed by a dedicated volunteer that will pick up the “scent” of guests in our fellowship. This follow-up team will make a phone call to each guest following the worship service or cell group meeting and will mail a weekly pastoral greeting letter to all first time attendees. This team will work closely in coordination with our F.A.I.T.H. and GROW outreach teams will be “Sent in pursuit of the scent” to provide our special guests with yet another “Touch of Life.”

Worship Experience

New Life Baptist Church is first and foremost committed to providing Jesus Christ worship that brings honor and praise to Him through that active participation of His worshippers, namely the New Life church family. Secondly, New Life is committed to producing a weekly Sunday morning worship experience that will uplift the spirit as well as arouse the mind and senses. A typical New Life worship experience will include well done dramatic performances that result in a chuckle or tear and a Biblical truth being uncovered. Our worship in song will have that same mission in mind of lifting hearts and minds. A contemporary leaning musical experience will pierce the heart through the singing, playing, and enjoyment of songs dedicated to and about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will not forget the great hymns of our faith. We will attempt to make these great songs relevant and acceptable while keeping our focus on the unsaved in a seeker sensitive service. We must not forget our past as Baptists, but we must not live there as well. We have been given NEW LIFE! We will also seek to glorify our Lord and touch individuals through the use of media both in teaching times and as worship tools.

The worship will be relevant to today's social needs and sensitive as to touch spiritual needs. New Life Baptist Church believes strongly in the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to "Go...tell". This is our sole purpose for existing. Therefore, we will include in each service a specific time for spiritual decision along with an invitation to receive eternal life through repentance, confession, and proclamation. Hopefully, each week we will see numerous people enjoy the assurance of new life at New Life.

CHURCH STRUCTURE AND ECCLESIOLOGY

The issues of church structure and ecclesiology are of vital importance in any new church start, and in the case of New Life Baptist Church, this is no different. Our first priority in the area of structure is allegiance to the text of the New Testament and what it has to say on the issue. But, once that has been determined, we feel that the best way to reach those in the Maryville area who have been worn out on the idea of going to church is to feed them something new and innovative but maintain some level of familiarity with the area's traditional churches. In this area of discussion, we will look at church leadership structure and times/strategies for meeting in the light of Scripture and the area's preconceived notions as to how "church is supposed to be."

With regard to church leadership organization, we feel that the best way to approach this low-to-moderate income area is with a somewhat familiar "Baptist structure." By this we mean that we will ordain one senior pastor as the spiritual shepherd of the church. We feel that this is the Biblical idea that fits best into the area. This does not necessarily mean, however, that the church planter must go into the area all alone. A team element will be necessary to meet the many needs that arise out of the economic and spiritual condition of the community. Unless the pastor or his wife are able to simply do something a little more upbeat

musically while still remaining traditional, a worship leader is a must. The reason for this is that the area is all too familiar with the tired "worship" which plagues much of modern Christianity. Also, due to the fact that there are a large number of children in the area, a volunteer children's coordinator should be in place before any type of worship service is begun. The necessity for an assimilation director from the very beginning is debatable since the area is so small geographically and population wise. The pastor should be able to coordinate a home-based small group format Bible study at least in the beginning and continuing for several months. In addition to the staff of the church, which will be formed over time and function like a Biblical elder structure, we will ordain deacons in keeping with the SBC's interpretation of doctrine. We do recognize, though, that the word "deacon" means servant and not "power wielding, decision making, pastor-annoying, hard-hearted protector of the church's money." For this reason, we will immediately begin looking into a deacon family ministry program.

In the area of times and dates of meeting corporately, we will employ a more non-traditional approach. Due to the fact that there are limited options for corporate meeting spaces, we will postpone this decision until the time for an actual plant to occur. The core of the church will immediately begin meeting in in-home cell groups that will meet on any convenient weeknight other than Wednesday. The reason for this is that the main believers' worship service will take place on the traditional church night of Wednesday. Sunday mornings will be reserved for a seeker-sensitive service meeting at 11:00. This service will challenge a group of people who live off of a "faith of our fathers" mentality. The consensus in the area, as is usually the case in East Tennessee that everyone who's walking around is a Christian. This seeker-sensitive service will continually challenge that notion. We believe that at least in the beginning it will be best not to overwhelm new members or seekers with "putting too much on their plates" in the area of demands on their time. We feel this is the best strategy because the area is predominantly inhabited by blue-collar workers who work extremely hard all week and even on weekends in some instances.

CONCLUSION

Due to the fact that the Chilhowee Association feels that the area is not completely ready for a plant, we recommend waiting a couple of years at least until the transportation construction into the area (mentioned above) is complete before beginning a new work. We recognize that many of the felt needs and preferences will be the same at that point, but because of this decision, we feel it best to not offer a specific time-dated strategy at this point.

