

# Family Business Meeting

## Missional Director Recap of 2018

At the beginning of 2018 I took over as the Missional Director, which was a position previously held by Pastor Atlas. Pastor Atlas had faithfully been laboring in this capacity for many years and I was tremendously blessed to work closely with Pastor Atlas in various capacities over the past few years. It is truly humbling to labor alongside a man like Pastor Atlas whose heart for this church drives him to sacrifice much to see us grow in wisdom and knowledge, and to stir our hearts for the mission our Lord gave us upon His departure. It is with his example in mind that I humbly took over this position, and it is my deep desire to continue to build on the foundation he has laid.

As Missional Director my two main responsibilities in 2018 were to direct the AWANA program, and to direct our mission's department. Below you'll find a brief recap of what 2018 looked like in fulfilling those roles.

### **AWANA recap**

For the past few years, prior to the 2018/2019 club year, Pastor Atlas was directing the AWANA program. He did a tremendous job organizing and overseeing all aspects of this ministry. As well, I've served in that ministry for a handful of years. These two factors allowed for a smooth transition when I took over the program.

The program runs from September through May. We had over 80 children registered and are currently about two thirds of the way through our club year. The kids are blessed to be led by some amazing godly men and women. With roughly 35 adult volunteers and a handful of our youth who are leaders in training (LIT's), the kids are well cared for and it truly makes my job easy.

Some highlights from the year so far have been our Christmas themed "Decorate a Leader Night" where the kids got to use an assortment of Christmas decorations to make their team leaders into a human Christmas tree, our "Missionary Night" where the kids enjoyed having Rick and Melanie Floyd join them and talk to them about the importance of having scripture in one's own native tongue, and our "Pastor and Popcorn Night" where Pastor Matt treated the kids to freshly popped popcorn while simultaneously teaching them about the work of regeneration.

It's a joy each week to see how devoted these kids are to memorizing God's words and fellowshiping with their friends. I am humbled and honored to be part of it. We could always use more volunteers from year-to-year, so please consider joining us in the 2019/2020 club year. As well, if your child/children are between the ages of 3 years old and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, consider signing them up for this amazing Bible based club.

### **Missions Recap**

As the Missions Director, there are a handful of duties I am responsible for overseeing which include keeping our church apprised of what is happening with our missionaries, educating the church on the missionary task, evaluating the level of support for our missionaries, evaluating potential new missionaries, and leading short term mission trips.

As part of keeping our church up-to-date on the missionaries we support, I spent time collecting information from our missionaries so that we have a more complete picture of those we are supporting. The website has been updated with this information. My prayer is that we use these details to get to know them better and in doing so more effectively pray for and support them. In addition, I pray this information draws our church deeper into the task our Lord has given us as we await His return.

Concerning education, as part of building on the foundation Pastor Atlas laid, and with the goal of further stirring the hearts of our congregation for the great commission, I wrote two blog posts on the great commission. One was on prayer and one was on the importance of the Holy Spirit and his role in the mission of the church. These can both be found on the DRC website.

Regarding the financial support of our missionaries, we did not make any changes to the level of support our missionaries received in 2018 from 2017. In 2018 we saw the addition of a new missionary, Ranjit Singh, who our church worked with in India for 4 years prior to this. He is on a 3-year trial and when that time is up we will reevaluate our support of him to see if changes need to be made. Heading into 2019 I did not make any recommendations to the elders to take on any additional missionaries. \*

In terms of short-term mission trips, in July of 2018 I took a team of 9 people into Mexico for a week-long mission trip. For more details on this trip you can read the form titled *"Family Business Meeting, 2018 Mexico Mission Trip Overview."* As 2018 drew to a close, our Africa team began meeting, and those efforts continued into the new year as we prepare to leave in April to work alongside Matt and Becca Stromberg.

#### **\*A note about how we spend our missions budget**

When it comes to considering where Del Rey Church ought to focus our money and resources that are set aside for global missions, it is our belief that the greatest need is among those people groups that have yet to be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We refer to these as unreached people groups.

Jesus commanded us to go to all tribes, tongues, and nations, and while the global church is doing this, the resources devoted to this cause lean heavily towards the already reached people groups around the world. There are roughly 400,000 people serving across the world today as missionaries, but only 3% of them are going to the people that have never heard about Jesus. The other 97% are going to places that have already heard about Jesus. This imbalance leaves only 1 person for every 250,000 people who have never heard about Jesus. In terms of financial support, the stats are not much better. Roughly 99% of the finances that Christians devote to cross cultural work goes to people who have already heard about Jesus. That means only 1% of the money given towards cross cultural work is going towards reaching the unreached. Put more simply, of the more than 6600 people groups around the world that have never heard about Jesus, only 3% of the workers, and 1% of the finances of the global church are being devoted to seeing them become reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now to be clear, this in no way discounts the local work we and other churches do among our own communities and among the already reached people groups of the world. This type of work is vitally necessary to see local churches continue to grow and be lights to their neighborhoods. But when we consider what we can do as a church with our missions budget and where we can be most effective with the money and resources we have, it is our desire that we focus on the unreached people groups of the world, and this is a central consideration when we decide which missionaries to raise or lower support of, who we might add on as a new supported missionary, and who we will work with on short term mission trips.

Brian Criscuolo  
Missional Director