



When! We had an awesome 2015, and 2016 has been amazing. We are only 3 months into the year, but it has been so great.

Our study through the book of Malachi was a huge success. The Lord spoke clearly by the prophet, and he didn't hold back in calling us to repentance and obedience. So many of you have expressed how you were blessed by the hard-hitting messages, and the small group studies as we worked our way through the text.

In March we introduced our new Mission and Core Values. I encourage you to read the article about them in this Journal, and work to memorize and internalize these things we hold together. They are pretty simple to learn, and really not that hard to implement in your everyday walk with Christ.

Our leaders will be adjusting the strategies of our work together, and fine tuning our ministry efforts. We are seeking to allow the work of God to increase in a more focused process. This way we can truly live our Mission and Values as a Church Body. Please be in prayer over this work so that we will glorify the Lord through His Church.

We are finally in the new Children & Preschool Building, and it is a fabulous place. You may already know, but we had a couple minor set-backs in the occupancy permitting due to things out of our control. Yet, the Lord is in control and has blessed us with a wonderful space to help families train up their children to be men and women of God.

On the thought of training up children, I want to encourage you to pray and seek the Lord on behalf of the children and families we are reaching. We now have in adequate supply two of three components necessary ministering to and growing adults who will give of themselves for the sake of Jesus. Simply put... We need people. The more people we have showing Jesus love to the children, the more families we will reach. And, that is certainly a way of encouraging everyday people to walk with Christ!

Remember... Jesus loves you, and so do I.

Pastor George

FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR



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THE JOURNAL

ENCOURAGING EVERYDAY PEOPLE TO WALK WITH CHRIST IN EVERYDAY LIFE.



JOIN THE JOURNEY



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Expanding our reach through technology. Learn about our new ability to be generous through our website.

REFINING THE MISSION

Every church has a mission. The mission given by Jesus is an already stated objective, which is found in the Great Commission. Jesus stated it in more than one way, but basically it is for the church to make disciples.

While every church has this mission if it is truly a Christ Following Body, not all churches are engage and 'on mission'. Many churches began with this goal in mind, and then somewhere along the way, they either stopped to rest or detoured onto another path. Both are deviations from the Great Commission, and both are self-focused.

With that in mind, our church leaders got together and spent months working through and zeroing in how God has designed us to be 'On Mission' for His Kingdom. The wonderful part is that we did not need a jumpstart because we stalled. Nor did we need a search party to be sent out to bring us back in line. What we needed was simply to narrow our focus, and tighten our work together.

Through this process we developed the following statement of our mission to fulfill the Great Commission together: *To encourage everyday people to walk with Christ in everyday life.* The idea is for people like you and me to encourage people where we normally live, work, play and worship to join the journey of a daily walk with Christ. The idea is for us to walk with Christ, and invite others to walk with us.

Underlying this mission are Core Values. In practice these values express who we are and help to inform us as to how we are to act and interact with others. Our Core Values are as follow:

- God's Word Is Truth:** The bold proclamation of God's Word in everyday language.
- In All Things Prayer:** The power of prayer to experience and know God's will in all things.
- Just As You Are:** Graciously accepting people where they are as the Holy Spirit convicts and transforms them.
- Unity In Diversity:** Moving forward in unity while valuing the individual.

To unpack these would take more space than we have available in The Journal, but you can listen to the sermon series through our website: <http://www.hiwaybaptistchurch.org/media.html> (click the 'Listen to Sermons' tab). The Series began on March 6.

SPRING 2016

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Over spring break, the youth spent the week doing service projects and providing needs for the people near our church, rather than laying around or partying.

On March 16th, after Wednesday night youth, a group of students went down to Feed My Starving Children and helped pack 41 boxes of food for children in Africa. The Servant Leadership Team planned this event and we had a great showing, picture below, for such a late night event.

On March 18-19th, we spent the night at Hillside Baptist Church and joined five other youth groups for an event called "Starving4Justice." This was an event where everyone fasted for 30 hours and competed for food and shelter. It was designed to help students understand how privileged they are in America and how less fortunate kids are in other countries. They also collected food door to door in North Phoenix to help supply a local food bank. They collected a total of 923 cans!

Finally, on March 20th, the Servant Leadership Team planned a church wide event called Barefoot Sunday. They asked members of HiWay to donate new or lightly used shoes to Casa De Amor, so that less fortunate people in Mesa would have shoes this summer before it gets hot. They collected over 300 pairs of shoes.



312 PAIRS OF SHOES



THE NEW BUILDING

If you haven't driven by or walked in lately, you might not have noticed that the new children's building is done! Outside of some minor landscaping, the building itself and interior are complete. It is now time to invite friends, families, and neighbors to join the journey.

We are super excited about this building! It supplies new classroom space for 2nd grade and down. This space is specifically designed for these younger children and will accommodate their every need.

With the new building, we are looking for people to teach and assist these classes as we begin to grow in our children's ministry. We are also looking for people to continue giving financially to help us pay off this building. We are nearly 15% paid off and are hoping to finish paying for it by the end of 2018. If you would like to help us in either way, please contact the office at office@hiwaybaptistchurch.org



ELEMENTARY CONNECTIONS

HiWay has been able to make a connection with Taft Elementary School. Pastor George and Pastor Kelcey were able to meet with their Family Support Specialist, Lianne

Merrill, to work out some details on how HiWay could help support the elementary school. Some ideas were tossed out and we are now able to help reach the families of the school.

In February, we were able to partner with Red Mountain Community College and provided water for the "Science Night" event. Coming up on May 19th, we will be hosting a "Family Movie Night" on the school's soccer field starting at 7pm. This is an awesome opportunity for our church to minister to the families that live directly in our neighborhood. We would love all the help we can get.



BAPTISMS

God has been moving here at HiWay and not

just physical building growth. The church body is growing rapidly as well. On February 24th, we had four people Join the Journey taking the first step of baptism! We are excited that they are joining us for this journey and we now that we will see them in Heaven as brothers and sister in Christ. Pictured top left is Michael and Katherine Hughes, along with their son, Benjamin. What an exciting time to get baptized as a family! Pictured bottom left is Mary Ann Wilson. Remember, it is never too early or too late in life to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in Baptism. If you want to know what it means to be baptized or why we do it, talk to Pastor Kelcey or Pastor George.



BUILDING BLOCKS

Do you ever wonder what teaching Preschoolers or 1st-6th grade children involves?

Some of the Responsibilities of being a Teacher are...

Preparing Bible-learning activities for foundational Bible teaching each Sunday but don't worry the LifeWay material used practically does it for you (Training is available).

Leading activities you have prepared for your small group is where the fun starts (This is where life changing results happen).

Contacts made to children, prospects, and families regularly build positive relationships with the small group and their families (Bonus! You get to know their needs).

A positive example set by living as an authentic witness of Christ and through full involvement in the ministry of the church gives these young lives a view of how they can serve as they grow.

With the opening of the new building very soon there are growing opportunities and needs to serve as a teacher or as a helper.

Opportunity #1-Serve at 8:00am, go to Bible Study at 9:30am, and worship at 11:00am

Opportunity #2-Go to Bible Study at 8:00am, Worship at 9:30am, and serve at 11:00am

Opportunity #3-Go to Bible Study at 8:00am, serve at 9:30am, and worship at 11:00am

If you feel burdened ...come join in the Journey of growing disciples for God's Church at HiWay.

As a teacher or helper we will "Gear Up" these children so they can share their faith with every day people, everywhere they live, work and play.

Wondering what "Gear Up" is all about? It is the name given to the Children's Ministry at HiWay. The name serves as a reminder that this ministry is gearing children up for their Journey with Christ.

If you would like more information about how you can get involved in Gear Up Children's Ministry, please contact Sandy Eglinton by email at sandy.eglinton@hiwaybaptistchurch.org

LEARN MORE

Visit our website at:
www.hiwaybaptistchurch.org

HIWAY WORK DAY

On February 27th we had a work day at HiWay. Over 50 men, women, and youth participated in support of the new children's ministry building. In order to save money on landscaping costs associated with the new building, the church banded together to dig and lay drip lines, plant an assortment bushes, and perform general clean-up of the grounds surrounding the new building. We were excited to see the outpouring of people that were the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you to everyone that came out to help us make HiWay better.



THE FAMILY SUMMER

Summer is quickly approaching! Here are some events that you need to put in your calendars:

- **May 19 - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**
Serving Taft Elementary School
Free movie starts at 7pm
- **June 20-24 SUBMERGED**
VBS 2016 from 9am-12pm
Free for every child
- **July 3-8 LOST IN SPACE**
Kids Camp 2016
\$250 per child
Registration due before May 1st
- **July 11-17 HELPING HANDS**
Youth Camp 2016
\$200 per student