Bethel's Annual Business Meeting

January 29, 2012

Pastor's Report

1. **2011 The Year in Review:**

Looking back, I'd find 2011 as the year of challenges and breakthroughs. We came out of 2010 with our Mission Statement & Core Values completed, a mission to Haiti accomplished, and a brand new Benevolence Ministry funded. We then entered 2011 with a sense of Bethel's divinely implanted identity and direction. Our mission was to begin moving in the direction God was pointing us and continue listening to Him along the way.

Let me share with you some of our many **Victories**:

• Our **Family Ministry Team** gelled as a team and tied the ministries of children, youth and family together, trained a record number of volunteers, and hosted one of Bethel's most exciting Hallelujah Nights ever.

• Our **Elder Team** blessed and wiped the tears of several hurting and despairing folks through Benevolence by providing help with groceries, gasoline, car repairs, home repairs, medical bills, home utilities, and emergency shelter.

• Our **New Hospitality Ministry** led by Stephanie Scheff has reinvigorated our Usher and Greeter Teams, consistently presented a warm welcome through rich coffee, and raised our level of building security for the comfort of our volunteers and protection of our little ones.

• Our **Blessing of the Bikes Team** strengthened their resolve to resolve to reach people abandoned and forgotten by churches, and had our best year with many thank you's and some unexpected gifts.

• Our **Ranger Ministry** grew exponentially, experimented with Friday Nights – returned to Wednesday's, and has been a place of refuge for kids needing Godly relationships with leaders and other kids.

• Our **Friday School Ministry** solidified and grew, introduced a boy to Jesus and led the way helping our church become Orange with all our ministries and with families.

• Our **LIFT Ministry Team,** through practical touches events, showed women that Bethel is a place to belong, and they went to the homes of single parents in our community to deliver gifts of compassion.

• We hosted our own Marriage Conference.

• We retired our Construction Mortgage.

• We shared both tears and laughter as we welcomed a new baby girl from Ethiopia into the Carlton family and then sent them on to their new chapter of ministry at our sister church in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

• Our **Youth Leadership Team** stepped up and answered a call of sacrifice to continue the good work of Elevate Youth Ministry in the lives of teens who need the love of Christ.

We married a few, renewed the vows of one couple and said weepy good-byes to friends and loved one who went to be with the Lord.

We shared sweet times in prayer together and wept healing tears at our altar. We sang resounding anthems of praise together and humbly swallowed the Holy Spirit's conviction. We were nourished, encouraged and challenged by excellent teachers on supernatural topics, and many more stood shoulder to shoulder to bear the weight of ministry, pushing back the gates of Hell.

2. **Ranger Victory:** Just a few weeks ago, one young man in our Ranger ministry gave his heart to Jesus.

3. **Identifying the current Elevate Youth Leadership Team:** Laura Paskvan (captain), Joanna Nesvold (administrator), Jamie Nesvold, Abby Faldet and Bryan Paskvan.

4. **Youth Pastor Search:** Began the search with 6 candidates, grew it to 7 candidates and have narrowed it to 2 candidates. As I said at the October Trimester Meeting, I expect a decision to be made by the end of March and our new youth pastor to be in place in June.

5. **Vision Casting: No More Excuses**
   A. **Volunteer Study:** Excluding our Serving Teams simply by virtue of the fact that so many are involved and because each team may serve only one to three times per year. We are looking to understand how many people are actively involved in regular, on-going ministry at Bethel. We currently have 156 Potential Volunteers currently (includes adults & teens). 95 individuals are serving (not including repeats), which is 61% of our potential. Total not currently serving, 61 individuals – remaining 39% of our potential. As of July 2011, according to the Barna Research Group, the national average percentage of church volunteerism is only 19%. Bethel is more than 3 times the national average, and is showing marks of revival.
   B. **Ministries Needing Nehemiah's:**
      1. Sign Ministry
      2. Communion Preparer
      3. Kids Ministry Prayer Partners
      4. Tech Team
      5. Follow-Up Team

6. Info Booth Team
7. Snow Removal
8. Benevolence/Meals/Helps Team
9. Wednesday Evening Bus Ministry
10. Mentors: Men for Men, Women for Women, & Couples for Couples.

C. **Bigger Moves:**

1. Pre-School Ministry Launch
2. Rekindle Leadership Conference March 24th – Free to Bethel
3. LIFT Conference March 31st
4. Potential Abstinence School Assembly push with Doug Herman
5. Launch of Life Group Ministry – August
6. Bethel's 2nd Leadership Conference with Pastor Dave Ogren – September
7. Introducing a Thanksgiving Meal Outreach

• Job 29:17 (NASB) 17 "I broke the jaws of the wicked and snatched the prey from his teeth."

• Zechariah 4:6 (NASB) 6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

• 2 Chronicles 32:7-8 (NASB) 7 "Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria nor because of all the horde that is with him; for the one with us is greater than the one with him. 8 "With him is *only* an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people relied on the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

• Joshua 1:3-9 (NASB) 3 "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. 5 "No man will *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."