

## **A vision for outreach**

John 4:31-38

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” <sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” <sup>34</sup> “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”<sup>1</sup>

### **We need a new sense of priority (31-34)**

Mission is more important than maintenance

### **We need a new sense of urgency (35-38)**

The time for evangelism is now

People are more open and ready than we think

We each have a role to play in the harvest

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984

## 2010 Vision

*“Lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest.” John 4:35*

By 2010, we will . . . <sup>2</sup>

- Add 20 new families, at least 10 of whom are unchurched.
- Lead at least 20 people to faith in Christ, baptizing at least 10.
- Increase our missions’ giving to 20% of budget, and send at least 10 adults on short-term ministry trips.

To make this vision a reality, we will . . .

- Pray diligently, depending on God for revival and results.
- Train, equip, and motivate people to share their faith where they live, work, and go to school.
  - Every ABF will go through the “Becoming a contagious Christian” course in 2009.
  - Develop a strategy for discipling new believers.
- Remove any unnecessary barriers that hinder us from reaching unchurched people.
  - Change the name of church.
    - Vote on whether or not to change the name at the annual meeting in April.
    - If the vote is “Yes,” we will have three suggested names for people to choose from by June.
  - Shorten the purpose statement.
    - Shorten current statement to “Building a community to change the world.”
    - Keeps the idea of the current statement but condenses it to a more memorable one.

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<sup>2</sup> On the one hand, numbers are not a reliable measure of success and effective ministry. They can be a source of pride and lead to trouble (2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21). On the other hand, God includes specific numbers to measure the growth of the church in Acts (2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1, 7; 11:24). In setting these goals, we follow the advice of Proverbs—we make our plans, commit them to the Lord, and trust him to accomplish what he wants (Proverbs 16:1, 3, 9).