



KOINONIA
DESERT SPRINGS COVENANT CHURCH

9915 W. Argent -- Pasco
(Quenching the Thirst of all generations)
(509) 943-4231
dscchome.com



2016

How does one measure effective ministry? In today's business world everything is measure by ROI (Return On Investment). Microsoft Excel spreadsheets track bottoms lines and trends to inform if business is being run efficiently and successfully. Carefully tracking a company's stock and P/E (Purchase to Earnings) supposedly can give one a long range forecast about company viability.

Unfortunately, the American church has bought into this business model for churches and their leadership. A pastor is now a CEO (Chief Executive Officer) rather than a shepherd of the flock and equipper of the saints for ministry. The congregation is reduced to "consumers" (rather than partners in kingdom ministry), which the pastor and church leadership must attempt to attract and keep based upon the "product" it produces. Failure to do so means loss of status and even a job as a "pastor". After all, we parrot, "effective ministry grows", which always means more nickels in the offering and more noses in the seats.

Now, when "ministry" is talked about in terms of outreach or serving others, a "cost analysis" must be done to determine if it is worth it based upon a projected ROI (Return On Investment). This dupes the church into putting a price on a human soul. So, if an outreach or service project is done without any appreciable measure of "nickels and noses" to the church, it is considered a failure or waste of time.

I wonder what Jesus would think about this church model? Jesus' model for ministry would be deemed a failure by these standards. Even though he attracted hundreds to his "events" in some instances, his retention rate was really low. And then he had the audacity to say things that turned people away and caused them not to come back! Plus, he spent all of his time with just a handful of people. When he depended upon them to carry out his work, they didn't fare so well.

The kingdom of God seems to measure things differently than our culture does. Why do we attempt to use the tools of the world to measure the success of the kingdom? Granted. There are some business tools that benefit the church, its leadership and pastors. But they should never become the end goal; just a means to an end.

When you examine how God establishes his kingdom in the Old and New Testament, you find a counter-cultural model. A careful examination of Jesus' model for ministry – outreach and service – reveals a simple and reproducible form that cross all ages and cultures. In very simplistic terms it is this: PRESENCE + PROCLAMATION + POWER = KINGDOM SUCCESS.

Did you notice none of the elements have to do with measuring "nickels and noses"? Establishing the kingdom in the Old and New Testaments as well as Jesus' ministry had to do with being "PRESENT" in the world as God's people to give witness that God is present in the world. It also had to do with "PROCLAMATION" of the message of the kingdom so that it could be heard. Finally, the "POWER" of the kingdom was evident in how God worked in and through the lives of his people. "Changed lives, change lives!"

The increase of the kingdom in terms of "nickels and noses" is all God's work. "No one can come to the me [Jesus] unless the Father draw him" (John 6:44). When the church does grow, it is God who gives this increase (1 Corinthians 5-9). This does not mean there is nothing we can do or should be doing!

As God's people, we are called to figure out ways to be "PRESENT" in our community. How and where can we be in our community to be available to show and share God's love? We are called to strategize ways in which we can faithfully

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clearly "PROCLAIM" the good news message of Jesus. What would be effective ways to gain an audience of spiritual seekers to tell them of God's offer of life through Jesus.

Finally, we are called to live boldly in the "POWER" of God's work in and among us. What can we do to position ourselves so that God has an opportunity to show up in "big" ways to make himself known through prayer, testimonies of changed lives and miracles? At the end of the day, if we have been faithful to do these three things, we are successful in God's eyes and for his kingdom. We will satisfy ourselves with planting and watering and wait upon the Lord to give the increase. *Pastor Ron*



"Our purpose is to equip the women of DSCC to grow, serve, and reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ"

Coming Events:

- Sat. April 16 10:00- 12:00 am **"Mini Retreat"** led by Leanne Guyll
- Sat. May 7 – 9-11:30 or until we finish: Bible book Binding
- Sat. May 21 **The Women's Tea -- Guest speaker Valerie Hicks**
- June: Picnic
- September 10 Yard sale
- Fall Retreat....date to be announced
- We will be purchasing another bench for the Narthex

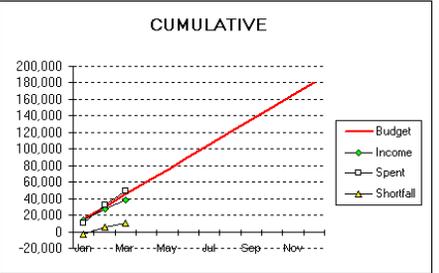


On Sunday, March 27 we celebrated Easter and DSCC 10th Anniversary at Rd. 100 and Argent

Special Note:
Leo Anderson will be preaching April 24 and in town for a few days surrounding that date. It might be nice if he received a couple of dinner invitations. Contact Dave Guyll if you would like to offer an evening.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2016
 Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
 Worship 10:00 am- Children's S.S. 10:00 am
 Sunday 6:00 pm Prayer meeting at church
 Tae Kwon Do: Mon. * Thurs. 6:00 pm
 Sat. 3:00 pm
 Men's Accountability Group Wed.& Fri 7-8 am
Youth Group meets second and fourth Friday
Each month at the home of Carla Miller
Sat. April 2: Men's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Tues. April 12: Leadership Team 7:00 p.m.
Sat. April 16: Women's Mini Retreat 10 - 12am
Wed. April 20: Girl Scouts

Budget Approved by Congregation = 180,650
 Surplus=Income-Spent



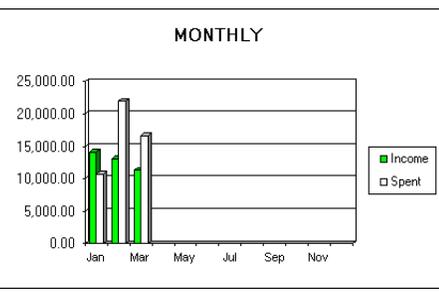
Budget Line Represents Total Budget Spread Evenly By Month

DESERT SPRINGS COMMUNITY GARDEN

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime"

THE 2016 GARDEN SEASON IS GETTING UNDERWAY!
 Four of the raised beds have already been planted – 2 with peas, 1 with beets, and 1 with lettuce, carrots and arugula. The produce harvested from these beds will be donated to new gardeners as they begin to plant and tend their own raised beds - providing a "jump start" for them! Beds are still available – pass the word – encourage participation!
 Check out the Desert Springs Community Garden Facebook page – for gardening tips and memes.
 We also have an email address for questions and information:
 DSCComGarden@aol.com
 Beverly Eads – 554.4061; Dan Tourangeau – 851.2950

Income from financial Secretary's Records:
 Spent from Bank Account Statements
 (No Outstanding checks)



March Special Receipts
 \$ 138.00 Benevolence
 74.00 Kids Mission Fund (Bibles)