

GETTING PLANTED IN A CHURCH MAKE A COMMITMENT....LEARN AND GROW....REACH OUT TO OTHERS

If you are new to Church life and wondering where you might fit in, let's look at one account of where the process of commitment, learning and growing, and reaching out to others started six years ago and at this writing is still continuing. Each of us can make a difference with our active participation. Jesus once told his followers the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Workers increase one at a time.

So...belonging to a Church should be more than attending Sunday morning worship service. Being planted in a local church has many of the characteristics we consider essential in other parts of our lives. It begins with a commitment to participate (step 1). For most there is a time of learning and growing (step 2), and then we take an active part in furthering God's kingdom by reaching out to others (step 3)...while we still learn and grow. In all cases steps 2 and 3 will overlap. If we wait too long to go to step 3 it may never happen.

Our life at Church includes our own spiritual growth as well as being a contributing resource for the benefit of others.

As we will see, this process is ongoing and will evolve over the years.

In the summer of 2001 a young family moved To the Dallas/Fort Worth area from Oklahoma as part of a larger extended family. The primary reason for moving was to seek more opportunities for making money.

In the spring of 2003 this young couple began a new journey seeking God's will for them. Their journey begins here.

A local Church held Easter egg hunts, one of many outreach programs, for anyone who wanted to come. The young family of five went to the Easter egg hunt, and as a result began attending services at the Church.

In a short while they made a commitment to become a part of it.....step one.... We should always acknowledge that God is in charge, even when it comes to selecting and being planted in a Church.

The learning and growing process...step two... starts with mostly being ministered to. There are two very important parts to this. First the pastor is a gift to the Church from God, and has the authority and responsibility to lead the congregation. Second, newer members benefit from guidance from and fellowship with the more mature members. Step two will take as long as needed.

Over a period of five years this young husband and wife became involved with activities within the children's ministry. They volunteered their time and eventually became

involved directly as un-paid staff in the children's ministry. By now the family had grown from 5 to 7, and their children were growing up in an environment where Jesus is King.

Their journey was not without bumps and bruises. Sometimes they did the bruising while at others they received them. Thankfully during this same five years they continued to be ministered to as part of the ongoing sermons and other worship services, and fellowship. The congregation is blessed with committed members from every age group. The generations work together in a way that ensures a place for new members of all ages.

In the fourth year both husband and wife felt the call into ministry.

During the fifth year with the Church, they started a traveling ministry providing what they call "High energy children's services" with some fellow members....step three... The ministry has provided services for hundreds of children at other host Churches.

Life at Church will change how we see the world and how we live in it.

This family came from a lifestyle almost totally involved in worldly pursuits, and with the help of God and their Church they are continuing a lifelong commitment to ministry.

You can find more about them at www.nowwhatministries.org

Get to know their Church at www.fmgrace.org