

Mountain Views

July 2015

The Power of First Impressions

By Pastor Jeff



Sunday, September 27th is our official community launch into our community. To help us prepare for that exciting day, let's answer four foundational questions:

Question #1: What is a Community Launch?

In October of 2014, we held our church chartering service. That service celebrated the faith, sacrifice and commitment of our founding families. It marked our formal organization as a New Testament Church. Our chartering service was a celebration for our church internally. Our Community Launch has an external focus. It tells the people, in our geographic location, that we are a church that is ready and willing to reach them, love them and care for them in Christ.

Question #2: Why have a Community Launch?

Recently, while in a strategy meeting with Dr. Ken Davis at Baptist Bible Seminary, he stated, "***Mountain View Bible Church has a once in a life time opportunity to make an initial impression on its community.***" Those words hit me hard and I hope they do so for you also. As a church, we have the stated mission of "*Reaching the un-churched with the gospel of grace and the de-churched with the grace of the gospel.*" Our community launch is an important and once in a life time opportunity to reach new people for Jesus. New

churches offer new hope to the discouraged, new places to belong to the outcast, and new opportunities to seekers. Of course in the future we will have many other outreaches, but we only have one Community Launch in the life of our church and we must make the most of it!

Question #3: What have we done to prepare for the Launch?

Our 2015 ministry plan had three areas of focus to prepare our church for an effective Community Launch.

- 1) The Spiritual encouragement and equipping of our current body. We cannot be effective in reaching others if we are not spiritually healthy and vibrant.
- 2) Develop a comprehensive outreach plan, that stimulates personal spontaneous outreach, strategic group and church outreach and saturation marketing to the community.
- 3) Improve ministry operation.

Question #4: What can I do to make our launch an impactful ministry to the community?

- 1) Pray greatly. Begin this week praying for God to draw unsaved to faith and the de-churched to a place of renewal.
- 2) Be a Contagious Christian! Remember our first series in January looked at three characteristics that will make you contagious to the world; Concern, Connect, Communicate. We will have more on this in next month's newsletter
- 3) In your CARE groups, plan a strategic outreach. Brain Storm with your group how you can effectively reach others working together. Here are some suggestions: Host a back yard Bible Club and then follow up with the families, hand out church invites in your neighborhood, host a CARE group picnic where each member brings an unsaved friend.
- 4) Plan to participate in the all church prayer meetings for God's leading, power and blessing. We will be scheduling several special prayer events in September.

I pray that God would help each of us to realize the sacred privilege and responsibility that we have in forming His church.