

**GREEN RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
CHURCH HEALTH TASK FORCE REPORT
CHURCH VISION SUNDAY,
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PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer Ministry Biblical Foundation

- **1 Thessalonians 5:17** "Pray continually."
- **James 5:16** "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
- **II Chronicles 7:14-16** "...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

Prayer Ministry Goal:

Lead the Church in a focused, intimate prayer relationship with God, under-gird the core values and ministries of the church with aggressive prayer, and involve the majority of the church members in one or more areas of prayer.

Vision

Rekindle and refocus the prayer ministry of the local church, and to build a mighty army of Prayer Warriors that will lift the ministries and needs of the church and its membership constantly before the Lord.

Prayer Warrior

A Prayer Warrior is a child of God who is passionately committed to purposeful prayer, who walks with God, who places themselves in a relationship with God which enables them to hear, whose life reflects the high principles of Christ, and who believes in the promises of God.

How does a "Prayer Warrior" serve?

- Intercessory Prayer Ministry - An Intercessory Prayer Warrior will be committed to prayer and will intercede for the needs of the Kingdom three times a day (Daniel 6:10, "...Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.") The goal is to have 120 Prayer Intercessors.
- Worship Prayer Ministry - A Worship Prayer Warrior will pray with the Pastor prior to the worship service and also pray during the worship service in the prayer room. Ephesians 6:18, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

- Emergency Prayer Ministry – An Emergency Prayer Warrior will be on our Emergency Prayer Chain, willing to receive a telephone call at any time of day or night, and upon receiving the call to begin praying for the emergency need.
- Homebound Prayer Ministry – A Homebound Prayer Warrior will be one of our homebound prayer saints or someone involved in the ministry to the homebound. They will be assigned specific issues to pray about.
- Lighthouse Prayer Ministry – A Lighthouse Prayer Warrior will be committed to pray for their neighbors to come to Christ and Church membership and to offer their home as a “Lighthouse” of prayer and hope.

Other Possible Prayer Ministries

- Watchmen Prayer Ministry
- 24-Hour Prayer Ministry
- Shield of Prayer Ministry
- Missions Prayer Ministry
- World-Wide Prayer Chain
- Prayer Counselors
- Sunday School Prayer Ministry
- Special Age Group Prayer Ministries
- Men’s And Women’s Prayer Ministries

Schedule

- How will we implement the Prayer Ministry?

Phase 1 – Intercessory, Worship, Emergency, Homebound and Lighthouse

Phase 2 – Sunday School, Prayer Counselors, Shield of Prayer and Men’s & Women’s Ministry

Phase 3 – Missions, Special Age Group, 24-Hour, Watchmen, World Wide

EVANGELISM

Evangelism consists of personal evangelism and personal soul winning. The Church Health Survey indicated a need for developing effective soul winners (in our everyday lives) and making current outreach efforts (visits, calls, cards, prayers, revivals, church events) more evangelistic. We need to make sure and use every opportunity as a church to share the gospel through all our ministries; giving people an opportunity to express interest or even respond right there to the Living Christ! This means that we need to have Ministry Servant-Leaders that are evangelistic in their own lives and model that to the others on each Ministry Team.

The fruit of the righteous *is a tree of life*, and he who wins souls *is wise*.
Proverbs 11:30

Jesus said, "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. John 18:18

God is at work in the world, and He wants us to join Him. Being a Christian includes being sent into the world as a representative of Jesus Christ.

Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others friends also. 2 Cor 5:18

Our evangelistic mission is a continuation of Jesus' mission on earth. As his followers, we are to continue what Jesus started.

Today we need to:

- Step out of your comfort zones- by developing new friendships for the purpose of sharing Jesus.

This will involve working together with your Sunday School class as a "team" to plan fellowships, and as a group praying and inviting unsaved friends. It will involve each household setting aside time for fellowship with others (using hospitality to build a bridge for the gospel).

- Sacrifice our time- by meeting one on one with new Christians for discipleship training.

- Learn new skills-by teaching the lost about God's kingdom and how to gain eternal life.

We will continue to teach HOW to witness to others (have various witness training classes etc.) while realizing that the best way to learn HOW is to simply BEGIN WITNESSING with whatever tools you now

have. We need to pray to overcome our fears and step out in faith, trusting that the Lord will use us.

- Begin to obey God- by sharing your life message- "He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself....." 1John 5:10

- Our evangelistic mission is a wonderful privilege. Although it is a big responsibility, it is also an incredible honor to be used by God!

- Telling others how they can have eternal life is the greatest thing we can do for them.

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

- To fulfill our mission will require that we abandon our selfish agenda and accept God's agenda for our lives. We must say, like Jesus, "Father....I want your will, not mine" Luke 22:42

- Evangelism is a command from God and one of the weakest disciplines in our Church.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen. Matt 28:18-20

- If we do not listen to what God is telling us we are in disobedience and many will not hear the gospel as a result.

- Will you abandon your agenda and seek God's agenda concerning evangelism?

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ø Each SS class must commit to pray that their class will grow and birth another class. Because evangelism is the number one purpose of Sunday School, we must assume that birthing new classes will be a natural byproduct. Praying that your class will one day birth a new class should be the weekly habit of every class. The more classes we offer (even for similar age/graded areas), the more likely a prospect will be able to feel a connection with one of these classes.
- ø Classes must organize themselves for optimum ministry efficiency. Each class must have a Teacher, Assistant Teacher, Secretary, Care Group Leaders, Outreach Leader, and Fellowship Leader. The more ministry responsibilities are delegated to class members, the more effective our ministry will be for those in our class.
- ø Care Groups are the backbone in each SS class for maintaining intimacy. The weekly ministry of Care Group Leaders will prove to be one of the most important ministries in each Sunday School class. These groups are set up so that a Care Group Leader will only be responsible for 4-6 individuals/couples for maximum ministry efficiency. This way everyone on our Sunday School rolls should be getting some type of contact every week, thus reducing the number of people feeling uncared for and desiring to disassociate with our church.
- ø The Word of God must be taught accurately and passionately with practical application. God's Word alone has the power to radically transform people's lives. It is with this thought that we put our greatest emphasis on the accurate and passionate proclamation of the Bible. The majority of our fellowship should be done during the week, thus giving the proclamation of God's Word central focus during the Sunday School class.
- ø Each class should have frequent fellowships for the purpose of reaching the lost. Remember, the number one purpose of Sunday School is evangelism. Our fellowships should be planned with the unchurched and the unsaved in mind. Certainly we want to deepen our friendships with those who are already faithfully attending, but our main goal is to develop close relationships with prospects for the purpose of sharing the Gospel with them.
- ø Sunday School teachers must pursue excellence through training opportunities, weekly lesson preparation and personal spiritual growth. There should always be a passion in each of our teachers to be a more effective communicator of the precious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do not demand perfection from our teachers, just hearts that are humble and moldable under the authority of our Creator.

- ø We must be willing to sacrifice time, energy, and resources when it comes to investing in the lives of others. As we become available to be used by God, He will require us to give of ourselves for the eternal good of others. Understanding all that our Lord gave up for us in providing for our salvation should enable us to serve Him and others with a spirit of gratitude and sacrificial love.
- ø Renew our passion for Sunday School being about evangelism! Many people were brought up with the thought that Sunday School was about the class member just showing up each Sunday and listening to the teacher deliver the lesson. Yes, Sunday School does involve discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship, but the foundation for Sunday School is evangelism! Everything that we do in Sunday School is for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission—seeing souls saved!

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRACTICAL ISSUES

- ø Renovation of Old Worship Center to create additional Sunday School space. Because of our limited classroom space, we need to maximize the space that we currently have. The tentative plans are to enclose a chapel/classroom that will seat approximately 60 people on the front end of the old worship center. We would then install movable walls that would divide the remainder of the old worship center into four classrooms. This would allow for the larger space to continue to be used for TeamKids on Wednesday nights and other ministries as needed.
- ø Possibly purchase mobile trailer for additional Sunday School space. We would remove the two existing portable buildings outside the youth house and replace them with one larger mobile trailer that could house at least two Sunday School classes.
- ø Pray for new leadership to be raised up and be trained. As we continue to grow, there will be an obvious need for future teachers and leaders in our newly formed classes. These new leaders will need to be willing to be trained and held accountable for the good of the Kingdom's work.
- ø Build new (or refurbish existing) facilities for our Preschool/Children's Ministry areas. There is a natural, unused space between the old and new worship centers that could be utilized for creating a new Preschool and Children's wing. It would help provide much needed space for children from birth through fifth grade. This would obviously be of great cost, but the potential benefit would be priceless!

GREETER MINISTRY

Parking Lot Greeters

- Volunteers help guests, handicapped, GRBC members find parking spaces
- Assist car riders during bad weather
- Help guests enter the building at the correct location

Welcome Center

- Volunteers staff the Greeting and Information Center
- Register guests
- Help guests determine the appropriate bible study group
- Have church event information
- Assist church members in sign-ups

Inside Greeters

- Stand at exterior doors and greet everyone
- Accompany guests to appropriate bible study classes

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Biblical Foundation

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

- Build new Preschool/Children's wing between old and new worship centers. As was mentioned previously, one of our main goals as a church is to effectively minister to children and their families. Since we expect to continue to grow, we must build new and updated facilities for our children. We believe a new Preschool and Children's building will help create a positive impression with guests showing that we are willing to invest in the lives of the children in our area.
- Continue to improve our security features in children's areas. We must be zealous in our education about and implementation of security features for the safety of our children and workers.
- After continued growth in the church, hire a part time Children's Ministry Director. As we continue to increase in numbers with our children, Green Ridge will benefit from the focused attention of a Children's Ministry Director. This will enable the staff to be more streamlined in their responsibilities.
- Increase staffing in these areas. As we continue to grow, we will need more of our membership to step up and volunteer to serve in our Preschool and Children's areas.

BUILDING REFURBISHMENT

BUILDING RENOVATION

- roof repairs, painting, nursery improvements, bathroom upgrades
- Classroom Additions – old sanctuary renovation, basement air conditioning
- New Construction – preschool/children's wing, new classrooms, Family Life Center

SIGNAGE

- Onsite Church Signs – informational signs, "guest" direction signs
- Offsite Church Signs – church direction, building sign
- Advertising Signs -- billboards

PARKING LOT EXPANSION

- Parking Lot Expansion
- Visitor & Handicap Additions
- Improved Lighting
- Traffic Flow

SECOND WORSHIP SERVICE

We are approaching 80+% of our worship center capacity. Further growth requires more space. Two services will provide more space for worship. Beginning September 10, 2006, we will have two Sunday morning worship services, beginning at 8:00 am and 10:45 am.

Both services will be similar in style and length. You may choose which service you will attend.

Most first time guests usually attend the 10:45 am service. Your choice to attend early service will allow our church to reach more unchurched people.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Biblical Foundation:

The Great Commission

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Mission and Vision

What: Vision Statement - Describes what we’re striving to become--a church striving to fulfill The Great Commission

Mission Statement - Tells how we’ll fulfill The Great Commission through the six purposes of the church (prayer, worship, evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship).

When: May take a year or more to develop

Why: “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” (Proverbs 29:18a)
Keep ministries and programs on track

How: Seeking God’s direction through prayer, receiving staff and Church Health Task Force input

Target Groups

What: The various groups of people to whom God wants us to reach and minister, including:

1. People God has already brought to our church
2. People in the surrounding area God may potentially bring to us

When: Estimated 6-9 months

Why: To help us understand who God is bringing to our church and to the surrounding area, so we can create and evaluate ministries to effectively reach out and meet their needs

How: Take notice of the people God has already brought to us, and use the ministry area profile of surrounding zip codes (which includes demographic factors, lifestyles, preferences, and trends) to see who else is “out there”

Publicity

What: Getting the word out about who we are, what we have to offer, where we’re located, why we as a church exist, and how we can meet their needs

When: We are doing some of this now and will expand what we’re doing!

Why: Great Commission = People need to know about Jesus and His church

How: Options include word of mouth, TV, radio, newspaper, internet, billboard, yard signs, mailings, phone calls, door-to-door visits, “cold-call” evangelism, special events and programs

MUSIC SUPPORT/WORSHIP

Biblical Foundation:

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”
Psalm 95:6 Our Worship Services are opportunities for the body of Christ to express heartfelt praise to the Living God.

Our goals for improving existing worship experiences and building on current strengths will include:

- Being “Word”-centered
- Being Spirit led
- Using our time wisely
- Using media creatively
- Sharing appropriate drama offerings
- Expanding our band
- Equipping more people for music ministry
- Striving towards excellence in worship

One of our goals for Green Ridge Baptist Church is to show a marked improvement toward excellence in everything we do. That is especially important in providing a well-prepared, creative, and Spirit-filled offering of worship.

CHURCH STRUCTURE

How The Church Operates

- More Streamlined
- Personnel Matters under Pastor and Personnel Committee

NEW STRUCTURE

- Replace current constitution and by-laws
- Develop Ministry Teams instead of committees
- Develop Leadership Team from all ministries of the church – staff coordinated
- Church votes on major matters leaving details to Leadership Team
 - call of pastor and key staff
 - annual budget
 - ministry teams
 - large financial decisions
 - vision/mission matters

STAFFING

The Personnel Committee and Senior Pastor will have the responsibility for the following:

1. Stay focused on leadership needs.
2. Personnel Committee and senior pastor will serve as a Search Committee for all staffing position needs, except in the case of the senior pastor position.
3. Develop a performance evaluation program for all pastors and supporting staff for maintaining a level of strong leadership and excellence. The staff should be competent, spiritual, motivated and conservative in theology.
4. Possible areas of need for the future:
 - Part time children's minister
 - Part time senior adult minister
 - Part time after school program coordinator
 - Full time pastor of worship leadership and ministry team administrative assistant
 - other as led by the Lord and as the church grows, we want to stay open to what the Lord is doing in our midst and make sure all staffing is led by the "pull of the Holy Spirit" and not just the mind of man