

**Quarterly Congregational Report
July 2010**



Ambassador Church

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NEXT WEEK'S MEETING AGENDA QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11:30AM July 11, 2010

Welcome and Call to Order	Pastor Ray
Prayer for the Meeting	Lay Leader
State of the Church Report.....	Pastor Ray
Congregational Feedback.....	Jerome Wang
Financial Report, Budget	R. Moon, J. Lee
Question and Answer.....	Congregation
Adjournment and Closing Prayer	Pastor Ray

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BACK TO THE FUTURE

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.” (John 15:1-2)

STATE OF THE CHURCH

About 15 years ago, I planted Ambassador Bible Church in the suburbs of Washington D.C. The mission was the same as our current church, “To make and equip disciple of all nationalities to be Christ’s Ambassador to all the nations.” After three years of going through the labor of giving birth, we saw the newborn church grow from a core of a dozen to 150 in three years. Those were exciting days.

This past week, I was invited to speak in the Washington D.C. area at their retreat. The church is thriving with two full time pastors and a few part time. The church is multi-ethnic, number over 200 adults and about 60 kids. They have a budget over \$500,000. The church is healthy, growing and thriving in both world outreach and church inreach.

My experience this past weekend was like being transported 10 years into the future of Ambassador Church in OC and LA. There were some key similarities. While the church is growing, there was period of “adolescence” – a time of transition where the church was struggling. The D.C. church attendance decreased from 150 to 70. Many core members left. Many were thinking of leaving. There was division. It was a very dark time and a time of uncertainty.

Why do I share this? I believe that every church has a period of major transition where we struggle through our sense of identity, similar to a period of puberty. This is the time that we are now experiencing at Ambassador Church. We have seen a transition with some key families at Ambassador. We have seen some of our former staff move on. We have seen a slow decline of membership.

After talking with the church leadership about how they navigated through this time, these were the lessons they learned.

1. God is Sovereign. They were reminded that God was the one who started the church was going to sustain it. We need to be confident that if God wants this ministry to continue, we need to trust in Him. God brought the new people at the right time. 2005 became a key year – new pastor, new lay leaders and new members.
2. Focus on Unity. When their new pastor came in 2005, they had just gone through a major move. The current pastor had just stepped down, and the new pastor came. Rather than make changes, he simply focused on bringing the church together under the mission and focused on building an unified community.
3. Strengthen Key Ministries. Rather than start new ministries, they focused on some key ministries Nursery, women’s ministry, etc that began to bring young families in.
4. Play off of Strengths. The new pastor was gifted in shepherding and teaching while the other associate was gifted in gathering and bringing in Young Adults

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and College. They recognized that working together and complementing each other was critical to building unity.

5. The Core Release, Retention and Return. Coming back, I was amazed to see about half of my original core remained. About half of the Core members stayed and remained faithful even in dark times. However, not all of them stayed the entire time. Some left – or in their words, needed to leave for their health and the churches health. But however, the interesting part of the story was that many of them came back.

As I listened, my heart was so encouraged to see that Ambassador Church is going through a much needed “growing up” phase. While it isn't comfortable, I believe that our best years are in front of us. If in ten years, we see our mission as making disciples to be Christ's ambassadors with diversity and multiplying new churches, I will say this was one of the most important times of our ministry.

If a vine is to be more fruitful, it must be pruned. While it is hard to be pruned, it will be worth it!

Here are something thing we are going to be doing in the upcoming months.

1. Refocus on Prayer and Fasting to Ask for Direction in July. We will be having a month long fast for prayer. At the end of the month, we will bring the church together for congregational prayer and fasting.
2. Get Congregational Feedback. We want to have a forum to get feedback from our church so we can create a healthy communication channel between the board, staff and our members.
3. Refocus on our Mission. We are excited about opportunities to see how we can expand our mission of making disciples especially through the planting of new churches.

During this time, we want to ask for your prayers.

Blessings,

Pastor Ray Chang
Lead Pastor

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UPREACH REPORT

Throughout this last quarter, the Worship Ministry at Ambassador has been working to **rebuild** and **refocus**. We are trying to 'rebuild' our vision and our people-base. And we are trying to 'refocus' our attention on what really matters: Jesus and each other. As we rebuild and refocus, our goal is to make this ministry something that is stable and lasting. We want to be more long-term in our thinking and our commitments as ministry members. By bringing that stability, we hope that Ambassador Church will continue to be a place where people find, experience, and expect the presence of the Lord.

We will do this by giving God and His people our best, facilitating a time where we can encounter Jesus each and every Sunday in powerful ways. May God be glorified as we gather together to worship.

Are you interested in serving alongside us in this ministry? Do you have a passionate heart for the Lord and a skill for music? Maybe this is your time to serve and experience the joy of leading God's people in praise and worship. If you are interested, let's get together for coffee and talk about how you can get involved and what that entails.

In Christ,

Ben Fowler

Pastor of Upreach

CONNECTION TEAM & MEN'S MINISTRY

This last quarter has been an exciting one! Pastor Ethan and I recently met with a group of men to brainstorm about Men's ministry here at Ambassador Church. We are starting a Bible Study on 1 Timothy that will take place Tuesday nights at 7:00pm-8:30pm. It is our hope that this study will evolve into what will soon become the center point for an Ambassador Men's Ministry. This study is for all you men out there that desire to grow in your walk with Christ as you lead your families.

Recently I taught an Introduction to Christianity Class. This class focused on the basic tenants of the Christian Faith. We had a great time of studying the Word together, tackling tough questions, and praying for each other. Look for more classes to be offered about different topics having to do with the Christian life coming soon!

Connection Ministry has been going strong and I just want to take the opportunity to thank all of those small groups out there that have faithfully shown up, setup the entire church at the Curtis Theater, and helped in the breakdown process

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after service. Without your help, Ambassador church would not be the warm and inviting place that it is every Sunday morning! For all of you out there that have not had a chance to help with Setup or Breakdown yet, please take time to look around and appreciate those people that work so hard to transform Curtis Theater into Ambassador Church every Sunday morning!

Blessings,
Josh Carroll
Pastor of Connection

OUTREACH REPORT

This Spring quarter has been a busy time as many ministries have been wrapping up for the school year.

Small Groups have ended for the summer and the leaders are taking a well deserved break. This year, we had 9 official small groups meet on a regular basis throughout LA and Orange Counties. Many of those involved loved the people in their small group like family and enjoyed living life together throughout the week. One group that felt this was the Irvine small group at the Hobson's house led by the Petrovich's. We are so sad to see the Hobson's move up to Northern California this summer and thank them for their great hospitality over the past couple years. They were a huge blessing to this group and to many others at our church.

The College group grew from 5 students to 15 students over the course of the year. We started meeting every other week, but this last semester, the students insisted that they should start to meet every week. There was a great amount of love for one other and they enjoyed being together. Even though they came from 4 different schools, they were still unified in love for each other. Tiffany Graham-Wright hosted our bible studies and other students opened up their homes regularly for movies, food, and fun. We ended the year with our traditional rib dinner (The Great Grad-A-Que Party) at our house as we celebrated our 8 graduates. We will miss our graduates but are excited for what God has for our group next year.

Student Ministry was started by Stephanie Esquibel and Ryan Reyes this year. Since we only had two high school students (both seniors), we worked hard to reach our local HS campuses and build the group from outside our church. Stephanie and Ryan worked really hard by going to two campuses (Brea-Olinda and La Habra HS) every week at lunch to minister to kids, but in the end, we were not able to build a sustained HS ministry. We are not discouraged because we were still able to share God's love with HS students, but also built a vision and philosophy of ministry for the future. I am proud of all the work Stephanie and Ryan did this year.

I am excited to announce the beginning of a **Men's Bible Study** that is starting July 6 for the summer. Several men have desired a formal Bible study and we are hopeful that this study will take off in the same fashion as the **Woman's Bible Study** that has been going

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strong for two years now. Mary Espinoza has been leading the woman's study along with her ministry team and they have done an amazing job at connecting women to each other and to the Lord.

In regards to **Outreach**, we were busy ministering to our community and caring for our missionaries around the world. With the merge of the LA campus, we inherited 4 new **missionaries**. We are excited to add them to our church family and care for them. This summer, we will get to know one of the families as they come to visit us. This will be a lot of people to get to know, but we are encouraged by the work they are doing and looking for ways for us to partner with them. Please take a look at our new missions brochure on the connection table.

In June, the **Servant Auction** raised over \$4000 for our missionaries and trips to Mexico. I want to thank everyone who contributed auction items in order to raise these funds. I also want to thank everyone who bid and gave money for these services. Caring for our missionaries is a whole church effort and I thank you for all the ways you help support them.

This summer, we are taking two trips to **Mexico** to share with them the love of Jesus. One trip will be July 7-10 to build a home for a needy family and the other trip will be a medical trip on August 7 to minister to peoples physical needs. Both trips are great examples of caring for people's whole body and soul. Last time we went on a medical trip to Mexico, over 70 people became Christians and got folded into local churches. We continued our ministry at **Country Hills Elementary School** and closed the year with appreciating the teachers for all their hard work. We gave them a nice lunch and hooked them up with some coffee gift certificates to use this summer to unwind. We love our teachers here in Brea and at our church. We want to continue with our vision to reach all the elementary schools in Brea with the love of Jesus.

In Christ,
Ethan Hedberg
Associate Pastor

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

“We can't experience the benefit of the change unless we're willing to be an agent of that change.” - Gloria Lee

Haha—yes, that is my own quote, obviously not a famous one... but I said this about a year ago when I realized that most people are excited about seeing change or transition that is considered positive, however they wanted to sit back and just wanted to benefit from it only to realize that this “good change” wasn't going anywhere. I had shared my observation with few of my ministry friends back in March, and I had said the above quote. One of my friend said, “You need to quote that more often. I know I'm gonna use your quote!” Haha... Yes, I laughed it off... but God has been putting my old quote back in my heart lately especially as we've been feeling that our ministries have been going through what feels like forever transition. Bottom line: Change is hard, but if we want to grow, we need to be willing to go through changes and be part of it!!!

Six months ago, I knew it would take a lot of work, but I also thought it would be simple to streamline both campuses. It's become more and more clear to me that the needs and dynamics at LA and OC campuses are very different. As I pray and think a lot about which direction to take in Greenhouse in both campuses, it's clear to me that there will have to be a lot of changes (I know, more transition) to accommodate for number of kids, age of kids, volunteers, and facility. I take changes seriously and want to make changes that will have lasting, growing impact in our ministry. But one thing is clear that I cannot bring about positive change just because I think it. We need to work together as a team and bring about change together! My challenge to all of you are twofold: 1) Will you please pray with me as I continue to seek wisdom and guidance in leading Greenhouse Ministry at both campuses meeting both their needs. 2) Will you be open to and even prayerfully consider being part of change agent?

While I'm preparing for the new academic year, we have couple exciting events and growth opportunities:

1. Week of Hope -- 2 pre-teens and I will be traveling to Minneapolis (7/4-7/9) for a week of community service and pre-teen camp. We will meet up with approximately 90 other pre-teens and 20 leader to be part of various project to serve the community and to connect with one another and with God! We're excited that we now have kids old enough to participate in such ministries. Come this fall, we'll have 8 youth kids!!! Wahoo!!!
2. High Seas Expedition (3rd week of July in LA, 1st week of August in OC) -- This is another exciting opportunity to reach out to community and friends! This year, we will talk about God's Mighty Love as we discover what God's Word tells us in the Book of Acts!!! ***We're still very much in need of volunteers—so don't forget to sign up online!!!***

In closing, my brain is constantly at work as I'm thinking about how we can slowly but effectively bring about change so that we can experience growth in our Greenhouse

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Ministry. I also love to connect with people and listen to their thoughts, struggles, frustration, and ideas. If you're excited for this change, let's TALK!!! Call, email, and/or text me—and we'll do coffee—on me!!!

Gloria S. Lee
Director of Christian Education

LA CAMPUS REPORT

This quarter, my focus has been twofold, cultivating a deep love for the study of God's Word in small groups, and bringing new people into the Ambassador Church family. Going forward, we need more leaders!

Inreach- This quarter, we put an end to the "GNO" men's fellowship in order to focus on meetings that are more strategic. Our two small groups, in Montrose and Los Alamitos, have continued to meet weekly until June. While most of the Ambassador small groups have taken a break for the summer, because of the lifestage of the LA campus and the importance of small groups, our two small groups have instead opted to adopt a more relaxed schedule for the summer, and then return to weekly meetings in the fall. Our Montrose small group this quarter has moved our meeting from the church building to the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf in Montrose in order to be more visible in the community as we study the Bible, and one person has even joined the small group because of the new meeting place.

Another change we made this quarter was moving out of the old Immanuel Chapel office on Honolulu Ave at the end of April. We did this to save money on rent, as the office was no longer affordable under the 2010 budget, but, as of the end of June, we do have another office yet. This was a blessing at first because it was saving the church money, but has become a liability to our ministry. We plan to find a new office ASAP.

Moving forward, my hope to begin facilitating a regular gathering of the men of the LA campus for prayer, Bible study, and sharing. This is very important to the LA campus ministry, since one of our biggest prayer requests at this stage is for leadership development. Our prayer continues to be that the Lord will raise up leaders from within the church, or bring people with leadership gifts into the church.

Upreach- I continued to serve as worship leader at the LA campus this quarter. Wenonie Ling, a student at Fuller Theological Seminary, has continued to serve the LA campus as the worship and creative arts intern. Pastor Jeff and Wenonie this quarter have recruited a number of new worship team members, and the new worship team began weekly practices on the first week of June. The new worship team is a huge blessing to the ministry of the LA campus, and our prayer is that God will use the worship and creative arts experience at the LA campus to

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bring glory to himself. We also pray that creative, passionate worship will be something that is valued at the LA campus. I hope to transition out of the worship leader role, and plans to begin searching for the person God may be calling to be the new worship leader at the LA campus.

Outreach- Outreach continues to be a area in which the LA campus is challenged. We offered “Egypt”, a children’s mini-VBS, in conjunction with “Transformational Finances”, a personal finance course taught by myself and Dr. James Chong, in mid-May. While “Egypt” was effective at temporarily bringing a few new faces into the church, the personal finance course was only attended by a few men of the LA campus. Part of the problem is that we need help to better publicize outreach events.

We had planned for an Amor Ministries Mexico house-building mission for July 8-10, we have decided to postpone the outreach due to a lack of enrollments. We are hoping to have more interest for our next scheduled trip sometime in late-September to mid-October.

Finally, we have been trying to find ways to cut back on spending in order for the LA campus to fulfill commitments to our missionaries. We have removed giving to the missionaries from the LA campus budget for 2010, pending evaluation by Ambassador as to which missionaries the church will continue to support from 2011 onward.

Really, outreach is part of our mission statement, but evangelism is not deeply enough ingrained into the culture of the LA campus for it to be a natural part of our lifestyle yet. Prayer is also something that we are not doing enough of as a body. Please pray that the Lord will create opportunities for us to bring people to Christ; please pray also that the Lord will give us a hunger for prayer.

Jeff Spindle

LA Campus Pastor

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Calendar of Events July-December

VBS (LA)- July 20th-24th
Prayer Meeting- July 30th
VBS Staff Appreciation Day (LA)- July 31st
VBS (OC)- August 2nd-6th
Medical Mission Trip- August 7th-8th
VBS Staff Appreciation Day (OC)- August 14th
Small Group Training- August 27th
Joint Greenhouse Meeting- August 28th
Angels Game- August 28th
Essentials Classes- September 11th
VBS Follow up (LA)- September 11th
Small Group Fair- September 12th
Small Groups Begin- September 12th
MOPS Begins- September 15th
VBS Follow up (OC)- September 18th
Quarterly Congregational Meeting- September 26th
Thanksgiving Banquet- November 21st
Christmas Banquet- December 12th
Quarterly Congregational Meeting- December 26th

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AMBASSADOR CHURCH OC

2010-2011 Final Budget

Category	FY 2010-2011
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INFLOW	
<hr/>	
5010	General Giving \$420,000
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OUTFLOW	
<hr/>	
6000	Salary & Benefits \$254,710
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7000	Ministry Expenses
<hr/>	
7100	Upreach Ministry \$5,800
7200	Inreach Ministry \$16,600
7300	Outreach Ministry \$17,050
7410	Children's Ministry \$14,000
7420	Student Ministry \$1,500
7430	College Ministry \$1,700
7500	Young Adult Ministry \$2,000
7600	Women's Ministry \$4,200
7700	Men's Ministry \$2,000
7800	Leadership Development \$2,000
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	Ministry Expenses Sub-Total \$66,850
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8000	General Expenses
<hr/>	
8100	Building Expenses \$88,220
8300	Administration Expenses \$10,220
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	General Expense Sub-Total \$98,440
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	TOTAL OUTFLOW \$420,000
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AMBASSADOR CHURCH OC April-June 2010 Profit & Loss Summary

INFLOW

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
5010 General Giving	\$95,125.50	\$105,000.00

OUTFLOW

6000 Salary & Benefits	\$52,206.79	\$63,458.41
7000 Ministry Expenses		
7100 Upreach Ministry	\$1,262.43	\$1,675.12
7200 Inreach Ministry	\$671.62	\$3,099.70
7300 Outreach Ministry	\$3,215.49	\$2,162.44
7410 Children's Ministry	\$4,334.53	\$2,124.91
7420 Student Ministry	\$240.60	\$375.00
7430 College Ministry	\$334.22	\$425.06
7500 Young Adult Ministry	\$71.69	\$499.88
7600 Women's Ministry	\$1,379.05	\$2,924.97
7700 Men's Ministry	\$0.00	\$499.88
7800 Leadership Development	\$2,349.46	\$1,624.97
Ministry Expenses Sub-Total	\$13,859.09	\$15,411.93
8000 General Expenses		
8100 Building Expenses	\$15,756.07	\$22,054.97
8300 Administration Expenses	\$2,216.71	\$2,555.90
General Expense Sub-Total	\$17,972.78	\$24,610.87
Total Expenses	\$83,993.66	\$103,481.21
NET INCOME	\$11,131.84	\$1518.79

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Ambassador Church - LA				
Inflows				
4010 Offering	\$	150,000.00		
4610 Denominational Support	\$	10,000.00		
Total	\$	160,000.00		
Outflows				
5000 Payroll Expenses	\$	111,702.19		
<u>Ministry Expenses</u>				
6010 Upreach Ministry	\$	850.00		
6100 Inreach Ministry	\$	1,100.00		
6200 Outreach Ministry	\$	2,800.00		
6400 Children's Ministry	\$	11,000.00		
6550 College Ministry	\$	250.00		
6700 Women's Ministry	\$	250.00		
6800 Leadership Training	\$	250.00		
6900 Other Ministry Expense	\$	450.00		
Sub-total Ministry Expense	\$	16,950.00		
7100 Building Expense	\$	30,020.00		
7300 Administrative Expense	\$	1,327.81		
Total	\$	160,000.00		

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Ambassador Church - LA		
Income		
4010 Offering	\$	26,814.00
4610 Denominational Support	\$	3,000.00
Total	\$	29,814.00
Expense		
Paychex	\$	23,217.97
5020-06 SP Ministry Expense	\$	1,505.39
5070-06 CD Ministry Expense	\$	77.69
5070-07 CD Books	\$	127.24
5080-04 IP Retirement	\$	500.00
5080-06 IP Ministry Expense	\$	416.58
5080-07 IP Books	\$	111.44
5900 Payroll Taxes	\$	560.75
6011 Music Equipment	\$	250.92
6014 Electronic / Sound Hardware	\$	214.19
6020 Worship Support	\$	81.19
6021 Guest Musician	\$	400.00
6139 Other Special Events	\$	26.32
6171 Sunday Refreshment	\$	116.84
6201 Local Outreach	\$	492.36
6401 Weekly Children's Ministry	\$	384.77
6420 VBS	\$	831.18
6550 College Ministry	\$	107.09
6901 Scholarship	\$	75.00
6910 Pastoral Care/Counseling	\$	63.68
7101 Sanctuary Rent	\$	5,125.00
7110 Phone	\$	119.31
7111 Internet	\$	210.75
7121 Maintenance Supplies	\$	3.83
7311 Postage & Mailing	\$	7.66
7312 Paper	\$	65.85
7321 Copier Toner	\$	306.19
7330 Technology	\$	65.24
Total	\$	35,464.43
Net Income		
	\$	(5,650.43)