



preacher's podium

“... our central focus from the start has been the person of Jesus Christ.”

We are not to dwell on the past; but we are to celebrate our successes and learn from both our successes and our disappointments. I recently spent some time reviewing 2009 and was reminded that we have much to celebrate. Obviously, the most exciting and impactful story of this past year was the work of the Pursuit Team, the subsequent call of Matt Nickoson to be our transition pastor, and the congregation's approval of Matt as Kingsway's next senior pastor by a 99 percent vote. What a joy it is to share the final months of my ministry here with Matt, Rachael, and Mathias.

The *Spiritual Life Survey* occupied much of our attention last winter and spring. Over 900 of you participated, and we learned a great deal about both our strengths and weaknesses as a congregation. Since that time we have both strategized and implemented some of those strategies in addressing weaknesses. My revised and updated *Intimacy with God* book, the staff produced *Intimacy with God* Journal and Life Group study, and the *Intimacy with God* sermon series were all part of addressing a major area of weakness: practice of the spiritual disciplines.

The roundabout construction at 10th Street and Dan Jones Road, though a wonderful asset now that it is completed, certainly impacted our congregation negatively for several months when both roads were closed, and summer attendance suffered significantly. In spite of that fact, overall attendance for the year grew by nearly 50 to 2094 over the previous year. We also celebrate the 136 who were baptized into Christ during the year as well as the 123 who were added by transfer of membership.

Missions continued to play a major role in our congregation's life as our missions budget for 2009-2010 grew to over \$1 million. We added Jared and Stephanie Henke as Living Link missionaries to Japan, as well as Jonas Dorlus as a Living Link missionary in his native Haiti. Rick Alexander and I carried thousands of additional dollars to Haiti on your behalf, given to provide rice for suffering Haitians. The Vacation Bible School offering, coupled with a special weekend offering, provided sufficient monies to totally fund the new *Save the Girl* project in India.

The *Marriage Matters* sermon series addressed one of the most serious threats facing the church: lack of marital commitment along with marital infidelity. Hundreds made decisions of recommitment and reports were received of scores of marriages that were impacted dramatically. The *Rich Toward God* book, sermon series, and Life Group study renewed the commitment of many to practice Biblical stewardship, even in these tough

economic times. As a result, our giving has been strong and has enabled us as a church to avoid the cutbacks and layoffs experienced by many churches across the nation.

One of the top stories of 2009 was the move of Kingsway Community Care Center (KCCC) into permanent facilities, acquired in 2008, almost quadrupling the square footage from the previously leased facility. Discussions continued through the year about a cooperative effort with *Life Centers of Central Indiana* to open a Life Center for Hendricks County in the KCCC facility. This became a reality just last month.

I have to say a word about our music and worship ministry. In the absence of a music and worship pastor, this ministry has continued to be outstanding. Much credit must be given to Lisa Lewis and Dee Pauley for their extraordinary work, as well as to Wendy Blakley, Krista Shields, and Curtiss Wall for their expertise and willingness in leading us in worship. Intern C.J. Stephens has been a wonderful asset. And the worship choir, started and led by Wendy, has also been a tremendous addition.

Speaking of interns, we have had a record year in that regard. Jeremy Powell, Lindsay Faull, Kaylee Scheiwe, Lauren Wingfield, CJ Stephens, Caitlyn Brown, Melissa Caffee, Justin Montour and Jess Holiday have all served the Lord and Kingsway well.

I'm already out of space and I haven't even mentioned the new initiatives with Kingsway Kids; Anniversary Weekend with Larnell Harris; "Coats for Kids in Afghanistan" with 1,019 shipped; Orphan Weekend with Miss Indiana USA, Courtney Hall; the Elevate men's conference, and a great Easter with 3,790 in attendance. How about *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, once again presented not only at Kingsway but in the public schools? There was the "Treasure Quest" VBS, "Fireproof," the Natalie Grant concert, John Branyon's "No Filthy Residue" comedy tour, the *Rescue* sermon series and the new pictorial directory. I haven't even mentioned any of the seniors' activities, student ministry programs, or sports programs.

As exciting as 2009 was, 2010 is certain to surpass it. So hold on to your hats. Here we go! In my nearly 36 years of ministry here, our central focus from the start has been the person of Jesus Christ. That will continue to be the case in the waning months as Matt and I will be preaching through the book of Colossians, beginning this weekend, in a series we're calling *The Secret*.

Yours for a soul-winning church,

John



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christian church

real · passionate · truth

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decisions for Christ

- Joel Sutter was baptized and placed membership.
- Jamie Garcia was previously baptized at Kingsway and came forward to place membership.
- Debbie Garcia and Slavomira Sutter transferred their membership to Kingsway.

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glimpse of growth

Preaching and Praise	2,169	<u>General Offering</u>		Year-To-Date Update (7.1.09-1.3.10)	
Bible School	581	Weekly Budget	\$98,731	Budget to Date	\$ 2,665,737
Decisions	4	Given this Week	\$123,796	Given to Date	\$ 2,546,522
New Members YTD	4			Average Weekly Given	\$94,316
Surge	93				
QUEST	60				

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