

I. RoadVision: Inspired Gee Sprague, Lead Pastor January 25, 2009

A. How to stay safe in the world today.

- 1.. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
  2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
  3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
  4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
  5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, ... above all else, avoid hospitals.
- BUT, ... You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.
- Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

B. Actually, if you are going to be a part of the Vision of CrossRoad Church, it is not going to be safe.

C. *To be a church that inspires imperfect people to connect with a perfect God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

D. *(John 15:12-13 NRSV) "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. {13} No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

II. It all begins with the \_\_\_\_\_!

A. A Church that inspires imperfect people to connect with a perfect God through a relationship with Jesus Christ believes ***It all begins with the Holy Spirit!***

B. The Holy Spirit brings the inspiration.

C. *(Eph 3:14-21 NRSV) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, {15} from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. {16} I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, {17} and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. {18} I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, {19} and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. {20} Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, {21} to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

D. This is a very important Scripture for me and should be for anyone that is a member here.

E. From day one, people have been drawn to CrossRoad because, through the Worship, the Word and the Witness of our people, Jesus Christ has come alive in our lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

F. We have prayed a prayer based on *Ephesians 3: {16} I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, {17} and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.*

G. Our vision has been to connect people to God through the love of Jesus Christ *{18} I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, {19} and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

1. I have witnessed the Holy Spirit filling people with the fullness of God.
2. I have heard countless times of people saying I cried all the way through the service. Then they ask, is there something wrong with me? I tell them no.
3. That is the love of God, reminding you that you are of value, you are loved, you can be healed.

H. Often people tell me, they don't feel that way anymore.

1. Sometimes they are concerned about themselves, sometimes they think the Holy Spirit isn't alive at CrossRoad anymore.

2. I usually have three responses:
  - a. The first is that it is a good sign that you are being healed and therefore the Holy Spirit doesn't have to work in you as much.
  - b. Sometimes I have to question are you as hungry, have you gotten complacent.
  - c. Then I inform them that the Good News is that God is doing the same thing in others who come to CrossRoad that was being done at our first service. In the Commerce Center days, in the early years of being in this building.
3. One such testimony: Hope you are having a great Sunday. Thank you for the message this morning, it was wonderful as usual! It is just unbelievable to me how much each and every message you deliver on Sunday relates to my life so perfectly. I am sure that it is so much more than a coincidence, it is God working in my life. I thank you for being *my* Mr. Lindsey Phillips, not that I think you are old as God by any means haha. I just feel like you are that person to me. You don't know me and I do not know you personally, but I sit in the Worship Center every Sunday and I feel you can see right through me, some days you can see the hurt in my eyes but you never judge me. I see so much good in you and this church and the people that surround it. I am so glad to have found it. Thank you for reaching out to me and accepting me. Look forward to seeing all of you Sunday.

### III. The Church is \_\_\_\_\_ Center, not a \_\_\_\_\_ Center!

- A. A Church that inspires imperfect people to connect with a perfect God through a relationship with Jesus Christ is a Rehab Center not a Wellness Center.
- B. Our understanding of the Mission of Jesus Christ is that we are here to rehab broken people.
- C. Last week I shared two paradigms of churches, The Traditional (Inward) and The Missional (Outward).
- D. Which is CrossRoad.
- E. Listen, I believe in Wellness, I practice it in my own life. I like being around healthy people, physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- F. The Missional/Outward Paradigm exists to see broken people made whole, and then joins in the process.
- G. The Traditional/Inward wants to know what can you do for me, do you have the cleanest locker rooms, the best equipment, a smoothie bar, and will I be surrounded by a bunch of buff people.
- H. Jesus encountered this same resistance.
- I. *(Mat 9:9-13 NRSV) As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. {10} And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. {11} When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" {12} But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. {13} Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."*
- J. Thank God for Physical Therapy. Sandy and Hannah have both been through rehab for fairly minor knee injuries, but it was still 10-12 weeks of therapy.
  1. Sometimes I would take Hannah and go in with her and you would see fairly serious injuries.
  2. I am in and out of Brooks Rehab from time to time and I have a few Physical Therapist friends who work there.
  3. Some of those people who have had serious accidents consider it a milestone when they can use a fork and feed themselves.
- K. Can I vent???? You know I will!!!! Nothing takes the wind out of my sails like the phone call, note or email that says, we are going to leave CrossRoad, we have been here for a couple of years and have grown, but we aren't being fed anymore.

L.I want to tell you straight up, our Vision is that there are a lot of people in the world that can't even pick up the fork and we are working real hard to help them.

M.If you aren't getting fed, you might want to try helping others who are starving.

N.{12} *But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. {13} Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."*

O.I hope you forgive my candor, actually I hope you will be excited by my honesty and join the Rehab Team.

IV. To love the \_\_\_\_\_ no one else \_\_\_\_\_!

A.A Church that inspires imperfect people to connect with a perfect God through a relationship with Jesus Christ is called ***To love the people no one else wants!***

B.I have faced a lot of challenges at CrossRoad while holding to this vision.

C.People over and over come to us because they like the fact that we welcome imperfect people.

D.I knew we were having a vision shift a few years ago, when I was in a strategy meeting and several of the people thought we should work harder to find some of the perfect people.

E.One person commented, when you say CrossRoad loves the people that no one else wants, don't you think that might offend some people.

F.They asked what could we do to attract the kind of people that everyone wants.

G.I was shocked, a bit dumbfounded.

H.There was a time in my life when I thought that I was the kind of person that God wanted. That what I did made me more acceptable to God. God allowed me to see how unlovable I really am, and yet He still wanted me.

I.And I have never forgotten it. My life is dedicated to bringing imperfect loveable and unlovable people Near to God.

J.Have seen Marley and Me. You will cry.

1. We have two dogs that are very different
2. Sugar is our Jack Russell terrier or as Rose Thomas who has one more appropriate Jack Russell Terrorizer.
3. Lilly is our ChiPoo, Chihuahua/poodle.
4. Sugar has chewed up door frames and areas of dry wall. She has dug trenches big enough to bury any of Hannah's boyfriends if they treated her badly.
5. Lilly is the perfect laptop. She loves to be held, just crawls up in a ball and is very loveable.
6. Sugar comes in some nights covered in dirt and mud and who knows what, and wants to climb up in the chair with you. She is just nasty.
7. Which dog is more loveable? Lilly.
8. Which do I love more? I love them both.

K.It is tough to love unloveable people, but that is what God does and so do I.

L.That is the kind of Church I think that pleases God.

V. \_\_\_\_\_ is made perfect through \_\_\_\_\_!

VI. A Church that inspires imperfect people to connect with a perfect God through a relationship with Jesus Christ ***Power is made perfect through weakness!***

- A. (2 Cor 12:9 NRSV) *but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*
- B. Several years ago a woman called and asked if I would baptize her grandson whom she was parenting.
- C. His mother, her daughter, was addicted to drugs and couldn't take care of her son. She wondered if it would be alright if she had her grandson baptized.
- D. She asked if we could do it after church, because it would be easier for her.
- E. I agreed, but I was starting to feel a little inconvenienced but I agreed.
- F. The day came, and I waited after the service. The building was almost empty when she came in with her grandson in a stroller.
- G. What got me was he probably was about 5 or 6. The effects of his mother's drug abuse had caused severe birth defects.
- H. I was shocked, then terribly convicted.
- I. After the baptism, I thought to myself what a jerk you are.
- J. I felt the love of God for that child, his mother and the grandmother.
- K. Once again, God showed me just how imperfect the world is, and how desperately he is seeking people to share in his love for the people no one else wants.

#### **VII. It is CrossRoad's Foundation**

- A. (1 Tim 1:15-17 NRSV) *The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the foremost. {16} But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. {17} To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen*
- B. Hannah and I wrote that right under the spot where I stand so that everytime someone Proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ, they are reminded that all people are Far from God, and would remain that way if weren't for Jesus Christ.