



# The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP  
THE BODY OF CHRIST

## GROWING THE LOCAL CHURCH—PART 3

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**T**here Has To Be A Plan To Grow. To assume that some churches grow because “They’re in the right place at the right time” and to assume that we aren’t because our location isn’t ideal is a bit like the thinking of the one-talent man in the Lord’s parable (Mt. 25:14-30). His assumption was that he couldn’t do much with what he had. So he

made no plans, exerted no efforts, and justified himself in his own eyes for doing nothing.

We are what we plan for. If we are planning to update the facilities, one day soon we will have what we planned for. If we are planning to grow, one day soon our growth will be evident to all.

This city has been planning to grow for decades. The leadership in our city meets regularly to plan for the next phase of growth, and it can hardly be a surprise that we are continuing to be one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation. How long would that be true if the city stopped planning to grow? If we are not building new schools, building new shopping areas and parks, and improving services, then the growth will go elsewhere. If the local church isn’t mapping out strategies to reach out in such an environment, what we will say to the Lord when He returns?

There are congregations in small rural areas with no industry and no growth possibility. Those congregations can’t do much because there isn’t much to work with. They are “one-talent” churches, but they still have a responsibility to invest what was entrusted to them. There are also congregations in large, growing metropolitan areas. In such an environment, the church ought to be growing as well. If it’s not, it can only be because there is no plan to grow.

If there is no market strategy, we should not be surprised to learn that our citizens aren’t aware we exist. If there is no outreach to young professionals, we can’t expect them to line up to get in the doors on Sunday. If we are surrounded by schools but have no plan to take

advantage of an outreach opportunity, we can’t anticipate that young mothers will seek us out for Bible class instruction for their children on the Lord’s day.



Do denominational groups make these kinds of plans? Yes, they do. Are they growing? Yes, they are. Is it reasonable to assume that, with the Lord’s desire for His kingdom to grow, we can’t make plans to grow?

I often listen to portions of the GardenLine by Randy Lemmon on KTRH AM 740. Callers bring him all sorts of questions about lawns, trees, flowers, and vegetable gardening issues. I noticed that he often refers them to his schedule for fertilization and then follows up with “It’s never too late to do the right thing.” We may be past the spring feeding and the fertilizer ratios needed for that. We may be past the prime summer feeding time with its unique fertilization ratios; but even if NOW is not the optimum time, it’s never too late to get the plan and follow the plan starting NOW. That’s also good advice for the local church.

We may have missed many opportunities to do things that would have initiated growth. It is true that, if we had done those things, then we would be growing today; but it’s not too late to do things now. Sometimes we excuse our immobility by saying that old techniques won’t work today. While that cannot be true (because the Lord cannot be a liar), even if it was—that does not excuse us from doing something else.

If it were up to you to make a plan for church growth, would you do it? We cannot excuse our individual inactivity because we are waiting on others to initiate a plan. It isn’t just our church building that resides in a rapidly growing market—we do, too! I have turnover in my neighborhood all the time. Do I have a personal plan to reach out to new neighbors? I have relationships with business owners, doctors, hair stylists, etc. Do I have a plan to reach them? I NEED to have a plan and work a plan, even if others won’t.

Let’s plan to grow, and then put our desire and our abilities to work!

| For the Record—8-14-16 |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday AM              | 128       |
| Sunday PM              | 43        |
| Wednesday (8-10-16)    | 40        |
| Contribution           | \$3,244   |
| Weekly Budget          | \$5,800   |
| YTD Contribution       | \$168,966 |
| YTD Budget             | \$191,400 |

**Weekly Bible trivia question.** Please submit answers to the elders. The first correct answer reported to the office will be recognized and published in the next bulletin. Here goes...Which of the following is not a biblical statement:

- “... or an ox fell in the ditch ...”
- “... The Lord will fight for you ...”
- “... I am well content with weakness ...”
- “... there is a reminder of sins year by year...”

**Daily Bible chapter reading schedule,** beginning Thursday, August 18, 2016:

Thursday—**Colossians 1-2**  
 Friday—**Leviticus 13-15**  
 Saturday—**2 Kings 6-10**  
 Sunday—**Psalms 81-83**  
 Monday—**Proverbs 10**  
 Tuesday—**Ezekiel 25-30**  
 Wednesday—**Luke 19-20**

The correct answer to last week's question was: **Goliath (1 Samuel 17; 2 Samuel 21:16-22; 1 Chronicles 20:5).**  
 We did not receive a correct answer.

## KEPT IN PRAYER

**Bennie Sue Galindo** fell on Tuesday, August 9, and fractured two ribs. Her right foot is not broken, but is very swollen. She is also experiencing irregular heartbeats again.

**Jan Lemoine** is in Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. She is undergoing tests and has requested no visitors at this time.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Jeanette Townsend**, who passed away on August 11, 2016, in San Angelo TX. Mrs. Townsend was Randel Townsend's mother. The Townsends were former members of the Pearland congregation. The funeral service will be held at 10 AM on Friday, August 19, 2016, at Johnson's Funeral Home of San Angelo. Mrs. Townsend had requested that, instead of flowers, donations be made to the school at Southgate Church of Christ. Family and friends may sign an online guestbook.

Please keep the **Fisher, Fink,** and **Zulich** families in your prayers. Members of these families were involved in a tragic accident on August 12, 2016, near Bowling Green OH. They were on their way to a water polo competition. Courtney Fisher died at the scene. Vicki Fisher, her mother, is on a ventilator; the other passengers, Betsey and Melanie Fisher, Samantha Fink, and Sydney Zullich, are better but still in serious condition. **Logan Indest**, Jim Indest's nephew, is very close to the families and is on the boys' water polo team. Please pray for him and the community as they deal with this tragedy.

### Continuing Need:

**Our Members:** Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Wanda Knight, Clifford Layton, Ben Lenamon, Jan Lemoine, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville. **Others:** Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Lincoln Backward, Octaline Beaupierre, Greta Burkett, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Carolyn Knight Head, Charles (Huck) Huckabee, Carol Jackman, Sharon Johns, Nelderine Johnson, Kerry Lemoine, Pat Lewis, Austin, Celia, & Doug Matthews, Ron McCright, Mary Means, J. S. Miller, Pat Miller, Scott & Cindy Miller, Lewis Moss, Lauren Murphy, April Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Sandra Brown Ryan, Henry Schaefer, Vicki Schwierking, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Rick Stone, James Thabiso Taylor, Larry Thornhill, Bennett Vincent, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Gloria Wolf.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Gary Adams** is our contact elder for **August**. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see **Gary**.

During the rest of the summer, the combined adult Sunday morning Bible class will be held in the Annex at 9 AM.

**September 2016**

- 3 Gulf Coast Ladies' Bible Study—TBD.
- 6 Secret Sisters—6:30 PM—Big Humphrey's. Char Bagwell, Sarah Brown, and Maresha Scarsdale are hosting.
- 7 Wednesday Night with the Master—6 PM—Annex. Menu TBD; Buck & Jari Thompson are coordinating the meal. Areas of service begin at 7 PM.
- 10 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's.
- 14 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 28 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

**August Birthdays**

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 17 Brenda Blair  | 22 Robbie Alatrash |
| 22 Laurie Maxcey | 26 Charlie Layton  |
| 27 Wanda Knight  | 30 Pat Fletcher    |
| 30 Josh Hamilton |                    |

**August Anniversaries**

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 20 Gheath & Kristin Alatrash | 29 Ben & Susan Lenamon |
|------------------------------|------------------------|

**September Birthdays**

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Jari Thompson  | 2 Danette Moss     |
| 3 Hugh Fletcher  | 4 Kristin Alatrash |
| 5 Janice Lemoine | 5 Larry Truelove   |
| 6 Randy Knight   | 7 Cooper Gartrell  |
| 7 Maurya Hill    | 14 Dorothy Cherry  |
| 16 Ben Maxcey    | 18 Landon Brown    |
| 20 Berna Dyes    | 22 Becky Hopkins   |
| 23 Greg Fabian   | 23 Canova Genaro   |
| 24 Ricky Pearson | 26 John Sloan      |
| 30 Lianne Biegay |                    |

**September Anniversaries**

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 16 Bobby & Angela Parker | 22 Ben & Karen Valdez |
| 30 David & Brenda Blair  |                       |

## Those to Serve

## *Pearland Church of Christ*

...equipping the saints for the work  
of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

**Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436**

|                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday Evening August 17</b> | <b>Wednesday Evening August 24</b> |
| Building Lock Up—Lindelof          | Building Lock Up—Scarsdale         |

| Morning Worship August 21                    | Morning Worship August 28                   |
|--|---|
| Opening Prayer Bobby Parker                  | Opening Prayer Kevin Scarsdale              |
| Song Leader Gary Adams                       | Song Leader Greg Fabian                     |
| Communion                                    | Communion                                   |
| <b>Presiding:</b> Bob Williams               | <b>Presiding:</b> Chris Lindelof            |
| James Maxcey Russell Genaro                  | Tom Langford Clifford Layton                |
| Demetris Kelly Jacob Carriere                | Daniel Brown Bob Williams                   |
| Lynn Adams Nathan Scarsdale                  | Jimmy Terry Charlie Story                   |
| Announcements Gary Adams                     | Announcements Gary Adams                    |
| Closing Prayer                               | Closing Prayer                              |
| Nursery Attendants                           | Nursery Attendants                          |
| Appeal Byers Tracey Mauney                   | Molly Godwin Nina Layton                    |
| Ushers (*indicates head usher)               | Ushers (*indicates head usher)              |
| *Matthew Fabian, Daniel Brown, Zack Williams | *Phil Godwin, Gheath Alatrash, Josh Hundley |
| Greeters                                     | Greeters                                    |
| Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale                    | Clifford & Nina Layton                      |
| Audio—Projector for AM                       | Audio—Projector for AM                      |
| Riggs & Whitmire                             | Riggs & Whitmire                            |
| Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Scarsdale       | Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Adams          |
| Evening Worship                              | Evening Worship                             |
| Opening Prayer Zack Williams                 | Opening Prayer James Maxcey                 |
| Song Leader Greg Fabian                      | Song Leader Gary Adams                      |
| Communion James Maxcey, Bob Williams         | Communion Daniel Brown, Jimmy Terry         |
| Closing Prayer Gary Adams                    | Closing Prayer Gary Adams                   |

### Worship Times:

#### *Sunday*

Bible Study .....9 am  
Morning Worship.....10 am  
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

### ELDERS

*Gary Adams 281-797-2575*  
*Greg Fabian 713-305-1626*  
*Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183*  
*Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866*

### DEACONS

*James Maxcey*  
*Bobby Parker*  
*Charlie Story*  
*Bob Williams*

### MINISTERS

*D.C. Brown* Pulpit Minister  
*Zack Williams* Youth Minister

### MISSIONARIES

*Benin, West Africa:*  
*Paul Tohionon - Bohicon*  
*Pascal Djedatin - Dassa*  
*Blaise Atta - Bétérou*  
*Clément Djebede - Okéwo*  
*Gaston Nda - Natitingou*  
*Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou*  
*André Assogba - Gobé*  
*Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé*  
*Paul Kouagou - N'Dali*  
*Jonas Sambieni - Kaboua*  
*Gabin Agbeci - Savalou*  
*Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies*  
*Lewis Romain*