

connect, serve, grow, share



**christian life
assembly**

ANNUAL REPORT

**fiscal year
sep2015-
aug2016**

A Letter from Kevin

Since the beginning of our church, CLA's mission has always been about people - specifically, introducing people to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We know that we, the local church, are God's "Plan A" to reach our neighbors, our community, and our world. It's not because we're something special. It's because we serve a God who delights in using broken vessels to do miraculous things. There is no "Plan B"; we are it. Our God is the only one who multiplies what we offer to Him, beyond what we could ever have done - or even imagined - without Him.

Over the past year, we have seen God move in incredible ways. The statistics and stories in this annual report never get old to me because they represent what God is doing in the hearts of people. God is changing lives, and that's cause for celebration! Not only that, I want us to share in that amazement together. Our God is not just a God of the distant past. He's a God of the present, and over the past year we've watched him transform lives across Tehachapi.

What excites me most about numbers and statistics is that they represent leaders, you guys, working hard to live out the mission that Jesus Christ has given us. None of this happens without you answering God's call to lead and to serve. We give our time, energy, resources, and finances to introduce those we love to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. CLA is effective because of you - because of your sacrifice, your willingness to lead, to get involved. CLA family, we are generous, we are gifted, and God is up to something in our church family.

This annual report also serves as a challenge for us to stay faithful. For the past 7 years, we've operated on two basic principles as a church: (1) Do whatever it takes to reach people; and (2) stay out of God's way, let the Holy Spirit lead. Everything we've done has been in pursuit of those two principles. The more I look back, the more I realize that God may just be getting started. What's next for us? What will God do now if we continue to say "Yes" to the Holy Spirit? Perhaps the real miracles are yet to come.

Take time over the following days and weeks to read through this report. Celebrate, as we reflect on what God has done through our CLA family. Pray with us that God would continue to pour out His grace. And together, let's look forward to the future with expectant hope as we love God, love each other, and love our world.

Kevin

Spiritual Growth

Life Groups, Starting Point, FPU, Link,
First Impressions Teams

connect, serve, grow, share

Life Groups

160 connected
in groups



Tina Sischo's Life Group Story

I had just lost my mom and everything in my world seemed to fade to black. I fell into depression...I didn't know how to escape the sadness. So, I drank...a lot. Then 6 months later my husband left. I guess my depression was too much for him to take. Well, one night after a lot of drinking, I had convinced myself that if I could just stop breathing, the pain and sadness would go away. As I sat in my room staring at a bottle of sleeping pills contemplating whether to stay or leave, this woman, who has been my rock, walks in with others I considered to be my friends, ultimately talking me out of what I was about to do.

[And] the next morning, there she was...my person. She was talking to me about this thing called "Life Group." A lot! She'd been after me for quite some time to at least consider sitting in. After much debate, I finally gave in.

I didn't say a word, I sat in total silence and listened to all these wonderful people give testimony to all the wonderful things GOD was doing in their lives. My mom was always strong in her faith, right to the very end, and it got me thinking...when did I lose mine? When group ended after the 8 weeks, [and] after what felt like a very long break, I gladly joined another group. This time I wasn't so quiet. I had things to say, tears to cry, a heart that needed mending. Each day was actually getting better.

Church didn't seem like such a chore. And you know what? Most of the time it felt like the group questions were written just for me; you see, I hadn't lost my faith, I just misplaced it. Being in a group of people with stories of trials and overcomings opened my eyes.

I WASN'T ALONE!

The people in my group are my support, not only in the physical but in my spiritual. Without them I honestly don't know where I would have ended up. I think everyone needs a good support group, people to hold you accountable. I know it's not easy to get started, to really open up, to put your life on the table to complete strangers, but once you do, oh man, the relief.

I've learned a lot over the last couple of years, but mostly to change the things you can control (with a good push) and the rest, well, that's for GOD to handle.

BAPTISM

20 adults



NUMBERS

STARTING POINT

8 taking a next step

LINK

27 connected in serving

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

20 graduates

MAKING IT HAPPEN!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS TEAMS

Coffee Team 16

Guest Services 10

Welcome Team 32

Spiritual Growth

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

connect, serve, grow, share



My MOPS Story

My first year with MOPS was fun. I met new Christian friends and deepened the friendships I already had. My daughter made friends through the program and we enjoyed wonderful fellowship. My second year of MOPS was vastly different. This will be hard to recount but I want to do so, because the love, support and prayer I received from our MOPS group was invaluable.

In August of last year, my family's lives were upended with a sudden separation from my husband. I had not seen it coming, only knew, somewhere in the quiet of my heart, that our marriage was not as it could be and I lived every day with the frustration and heartbreak of not knowing how to make it better. You see, my husband has PTSD and if you are at all familiar with the condition, you may know that the emotional walls it can cause can seem insurmountable.

Our marriage was lonely and we had been arguing regularly for at least two years at that point. But it didn't seem "that" bad... Not bad enough for my husband to suddenly leave. I was devastated. During this time, I was filled with terrible anxiety, extreme loneliness and felt so abandoned. I could not understand why God would allow us to come to that point.

My MOPS group arranged a meal train for us immediately, to provide us with meals. Individually, several friends I would never have known if not through MOPS, came along beside me, invited me for dinners, for coffee dates, to talk, to cry, to pray. When I felt despair and loneliness, they reminded me that God was with me always. When I was tempted to avoid MOPS because I felt out of place and like a failure as a wife and mother, they resolutely insisted I was not and to not allow in those kinds of thoughts. MOPS was such an amazing encouragement to me to not give up on our marriage, no matter how bleak it looked just then. Looking back, I think some of the only times I was able to smile or laugh, to feel joy or like myself during those months was when I was at MOPS!

I'm more than happy to say that now, a year later, my husband and I are in such a better place. Not only have we reconciled, but our marriage is closer and stronger than it ever has been. I have learned to let God's love work in and shine out of me as a wife. I've learned how to work with my husband to face his PTSD together. And while many, many factors worked together to affect this turnaround, I can truly say that MOPS was paramount to me being able to pull myself back up and walk through the most challenging time of my life, strongly grounded in God and His will for our marriage.

My husband and I are just beginning an outreach to help other veteran families whose marriages may be struggling as ours was. Marriage troubles are so common in the veteran PTSD community and we want to be able to encourage others with what we have learned. For me, at the core, it is to love as Christ loves, with understanding, strength and endurance. And I have MOPS to thank for being a group that showed me that love firsthand.

In Him, Liz M.



SUMMER CAMP

24 students



“Summer Camp was a new way to connect with God and build great relationships.” - Jayden C. (15)

“Bible study really got me thinking about questions I never really thought to ask myself and added great reassurance to my beliefs and faith journey.” - Truxton K. (15)



“The thing I love about Rooted Youth is that we all are given the opportunity to see that God is involved in our everyday lives, that He’s not just there Sunday morning, but that He’s always around even when we don’t see it.” - Mark M. (15)



“Camp was a great experience that brought me closer to my church family and God.” - Victoria R. (16)

NUMBERS

AVERAGE PER WEEK, 46 students

WINTER CAMP, 21 students

YOUTH CONVENTION, 16 students



Children's Ministries

Kids Life, Kids Life Jr, Girls Ministries, Royal Rangers, Nursery

connect, serve, grow, share



KIDS CAMP

21
campers
4
leaders



Royal Ranger Campout fun!



Kids Life: excited about
an Easter chick



GENEROSITY

86 Christmas shoe boxes packed
and donated around the world

\$716 kids missions - BGMC
coming alongside missionaries
to build wells in Kenya, help kids
and moms in El Salvador, and
help orphans in Laos

BAPTISM

14 kids



AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

ROYAL RANGERS/GIRLS MINISTRIES
132 students, 22 leaders

NURSERY
21 babies, 8 paid staff

KIDS LIFE JR (3 YRS - K)
36 kids, 5 volunteers

KIDS LIFE (1ST - 6TH GRADES)
58 kids, 8 volunteers