

DATE: December 3, 2011

TO: TOLLESBORO CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD

FROM: John Byard

SUBJECT: Report on the progress of the ministry at Sand Hill Christian Church

It has been almost 6 months since we talked about supporting the Sand Hill ministry and your commitment to supporting me financially.

Our frame of reference is our mission, core values, and our goals within our stated structure model.

OUR MISSION – To transform ourselves and those around us to become fully devoted followers of Christ. This is accomplished through the great commandment (Matt. 22:37-38) and the great commission (Matt. 28:19-20).

OUR CORE VALUES –

1. Simplify our structure to make it simple for people to become followers of Jesus.
2. The Bible is our only rule of faith and practice. We will teach our members to be able to study and obey the Bible and mature.
3. The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a servant by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry.
4. We will maintain an outward focus. We understand that the way to be most healthy inwardly is to be most focused outwardly. It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those with whom God brings us into contact.

OUR GOALS –

1. Have 2 major events before 2012 to be able to invite others to church and introduce them to Sand Hill.
2. Establish a priority of studying the Bible to help us become more like Christ.
3. Have 1 major service project to show God’s love through us to our community.

#### PROGRESS MADE FROM JULY TO NOVEMBER 2011

GOAL #1. Our major “Bridge Event” to help people start coming to Sand Hill was September 18 we called Back To Church Sunday. Our people invited like never before. We had a record attendance of 66 for worship. This is the first attendance like this in over 50 years. We have over 15 first time attenders. These are the people that we are currently following up on.

Our youth had a Hayride and cookout night on October 1 and invited the area young people. They had 33 youth between the ages of 8 and 13 for the evening.

We plan to have events like this to introduce our neighbors to Sand Hill and to Christ.

GOAL #2. We have emphasized reading, study, and memorization of the Bible so that we can become mature or "Christ-like." We currently have 80% of our people attending Bible Study classes before worship. We plan for a men's bible study small group to start in January. Our young people were encouraged to take notes during the sermon each Sunday. For the past 3 months every youth from age 8 to 13 (about 10 youth) has given a copy of my sermon outline at the end of each service. Our adult class has studied the Beatitudes and is currently studying the book of James. About half of the adults are keeping notebooks of their lessons so that they can study them through the week and refer to them to remind themselves of God's principles for life.

GOAL #3. Our service project was to find families who were in need and provide groceries and a Thanksgiving meal. We all brought food for 3 Sundays and gathered enough to provide for 3 families in the Sand Hill area. These were non-members. We bought fresh turkeys. Our members prepared the boxes and delivered the meals to the families. Our youth provided handmade cards that explained that the meals were God's way of loving them through the Sand Hill people. Our current members rotate taking "home communion" to those who desire it.

Our young people have started a project called "Christ Covers it all." They gather once a month to hand tie fleece blankets. The blankets then get embroidered with "Christ Covers it all" and are delivered to those around us that have a terminal illness, recovering from surgery, or who are homebound. Our young people deliver the blankets.

#### ATTENDANCE:

The first quarter (Jan – Mar) averaged 13

The second quarter (April – June) averaged 19

The third quarter (July – Sept) averaged 27 (I started preaching and leading in July)

October – November has averaged 29.

OFFERINGS: Our offerings are averaging between \$250 and \$300 a week.

ASSESSMENT: In my opinion we have established a base of Bible oriented ministry instead of activity based ministry. We are on track for the direction I have set. There is a genuine attitude of excitement to learn, serve, and worship. I believe this next year will be a record year for Sand Hill. Without your help it would be very difficult of me to minister and lead. I want to thank you for your faithful support for the past 6 months. Your trust and support have been a great encouragement to me. Thank you for expanding your influence through me.

I would like to ask you to continue to grant your support of me for another six months or for the year of 2012.