

Q: Concerned about pleasing everyone. How have you been able to reach a more diverse culture?

A: We are just who God called us to be. Just preach the word of God and God will bring the people he wants to. We dress the way we do because we are comfortable. We want make the name of Jesus famous. Let them be who they are and God will bring in whom he should. If you have your nose in the word, head in the word, ear in the word, passion for the word and ethnical diversity will happen. Preach the word of God and whoever should show up will.

Q: What does sermon prep from week to week look like?

A: Listen to a lot of podcasts, I don't read as much of other books as I should. A group of guys and girls get together and brainstorm. After praying over it bringing it back and say what I think we should do. Go 2-3 series ahead. In creativity meeting, bring all kinds of people in creativity meeting to make it diverse. Although we plan way ahead, we are always open for the Holy Spirit changing it.

Q: Greeter Impact, how did you do that in a small sized church?

A: I did it wrong, I always did it myself and argued, talked, and met with people. Greeters are essential. Greeters that are kind, genuine. What you saw today is every Sunday. "The sermon begins in the parking lot" Ed Young. Be Jesus in the parking lot.

Q: You said you have an inner circle that can say anything behind closed doors- how did you choose those people?

A: Everyone has an opinion about you that steps into the church. I selected the men that love me, more than that love the church, more than that love Jesus.

Q: You talked about learning from you own mistakes-what are some of the own mistakes that possible we could grab insight from?

A: Trying to explain myself to everyone like John the Baptist. If you try to explain the vision to everyone you'll never start it. I thought those that started with you will stay with you. If you have a passion for a ministry- start it. I thought I was the best person to do everything- and I'm not. I thought I had to say yes to everything because I'm the pastor.

Q: Is Newspring part of community of churches. What key transitions did Newspring go through?

A: We are part of the Southern Baptist Convention. We are part but not married to them. However they are kind of like the Titanic, they are sinking but instead of sinking they are just rearranging the chairs.

Transitions, everyone couldn't be directly under me. I wasn't over finances. Need to pay attention to Spirit of God at certain times of change. The bigger the church God the more I got out of day-to-day decisions.

Q: What is your best information for a church planter?

A: Lights aren't that important for a church planter. All you need is a man of God in love with Jesus that doesn't care what people think. PREACH THE WORD OF GOD! Find a college student that has an acoustic guitar and wear that thing out for a few songs. Challenge people to give their lives to God. My biggest problem is I believe in hell and I don't have time to politic, while people are going to hell. Make Jesus the number 1 priority. Then we are started adding stuff as things got bigger. Grow but don't feel like you need all of this (lights, fog machines, stools, microphones) Begin with Jesus, Stay with Jesus.

Q: We don't have a set values and mission statement and what can you tell me about knowing that?

A: We have never put together a 3-5 year strategic plan. Maybe what we need to do is listen to God and do what he says. We've listed what that stuff is but I couldn't tell you what that is. We just want to see people meet Jesus. We're just waiting to hear. Leadership is as easy as listening to God. Moses didn't have a 3-5 year plan - "And the Lord said to Moses"

Q: Are you planning on going out of state planting churches? What about satellite? Also are you taking extra security measures?

A: We've got to have leaders. We only thought we would have GVL. We had no idea. I don't know if people would understand me out of southeast. I feel that God called me to southeast. God called me to southeast because everyone thinks there already thinks their "ok" or a Christian because they were born and raised in a church. We've already had strict security. Especially in the kids area [KidSpring]. And we've had security for me since being in this building. Its just a precaution that you have to take.

Q: I feel this incredible sense of urgency in my ministry- how do you manage that?

A: If God tells you to go to the crack house, go to the crack house. I've seen a harvest of people getting saved like never before. I think Jesus is coming back. As God presses that in you, walk with him and Go.

Q: I wish I could say balls and things that are that daring. How do you do the invitation? How do you intentionally be with lost folks?

A: If you want to say balls SAY BALLS! I do the invitation different all the time. I say "If you need to accept Christ go to Guest Services on the way out." Make people stand up and pray out loud. With walk forward invitations the security knows. Sometimes raise your hands. If I preach and no one gets saves that doesn't mean I'm a bad preacher it just means I had to plant a seed or someone's heart is hard.

Q: What are some things that are bothering you right now – things that keep you up at night?

A: The terminology. Church is so caught up in terminology. Its all an attempt to look cool. Just call it what Jesus called it. If he died for it then call it what he called it.

Way into fads and not Jesus. Look to everything but Jesus. Everyone asked what did you do? I didn't do anything.

God moved. “No really what did you do” So many people look for a formula. ITS JESUS.

Q: How important is location? (looking at a new facility)

A: I don't think it's that important, people will travel to see a fire. We have 800-1200 Clemson students driving 30 minutes. Try to go 2 services but pray about it. If you do it gets it in writing and blood and because they might get jealous if you outgrow them.

Q: How do you know when do to build a building and how did you challenge your people to do that?

A: I knew in my heart it wasn't time to build. Then I took a leadership retreat and I said “its time to buy land”. Then every month we set money aside. Wait until God releases you or you will build to small.

Money is a serious deal. Our giving is up. I preach on it and I preach hard. Put God first. Andy Stanley “when you're teaching on money, got to preach it, teach it, got to celebrate it.”

Q: What are the boundaries you have set in line to protect family?

A: I don't do hospital visits. I didn't do it at 100 people. I set the rules for me and my family. I don't do meetings at night. Maybe 5-6 times a year I have something I have to do at night. I date my wife. Once a week we have a “datenight”. Once a week I have a date with my daughter. My wife is not expected to do anything here. Her ministry is me. This church loves that!

Q: How do you communicate vision from Staff to Volunteers?

A: Andy Stanley's book Making Vision Stick. Every year I do 2-3 sermons on vision. I say it and think I did it before and I'm hesitant but still people are crazy about it. We have an all-staff meeting once a month all on casting a vision. Vision is casting contagious. Some just don't get it. And that's not your fault. When 95 get it and 5 don't- its not your fault.

Q: How do you handle quick decision making?

A: One of the things that God is teaching me is to slow down and pray about it. Like these building were a slow process. Other things are quick decisions. It is often about how many people it will affect. If it affects the whole staff, it needs to be slowed down and prayed about. A quick decision for us is a week to 10 days.

Q: How do you release ministry. What is the main thing you focus on?

A: Main thing I focus on is my personal time with God? 99% of stuff I get is stuff from my quiet time. What do I reward, when I see someone knocking it out of the park.