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# GS UPDATE

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## 2016 TO 2020 - A FOUR YEAR JOURNEY

In 2016 we launched a four year plan called 2020 Vision. Our goal was to become a “*Life-giving organization.*” We set forth four things we would focus on over the four years - Leadership Development, Increase in Numbers, Faith Walk, and Equipping the Churches. As we come to the end of that four year journey, its time to stop and ask, “*Did we accomplish our objective?*”

**Leadership Development** - In 2017, we launched the *Healthy Church Intensives*. These were half day conferences we offered twice a year in each district. In this way, we were able to bring leadership training directly to our ministers and church leaders in each district. In 2018 we held the first ever *Latin American Leaders Conference* in San Jose, Costa Rica. We brought together all of our National Directors from eight different Spanish speaking countries for three days of leadership training. In 2019 we put together a seminar called *The Turn Around Conference* designed to help churches experience revitalization, which we presented Sunday after Sunday all over the denomination. Also in 2019, we overhauled our ministerial credentialing process and introduced the *School of Ministry*, a three year process for credentialing new ministers. In all of this, our goal was to ramp up in the area of *Leadership Development* and with your help, we did it.

**Increase in Numbers** - A second focal point for the four years was increase in numbers. From 2016-2020 we saw an unprecedented number of PFWB churches experience growth in one form or another. We saw an increased number of churches surpass the 300 mark in Sunday worship attendance. We also saw an increased number of churches move to multiple Sunday morning services and in some cases, launch multiple campuses. Also over these four years we saw about ninety new candidates enter the ministry, complete the School of Ministry, and receive their ministerial credentials. During this four year period we opened four new foreign mission fields; Honduras, El Salvador, Uganda, and Tanzania. And we hosted our first ever *Church Planters Retreat* with ten couples in attendance.

We set a goal to plant four new PFWB churches by the year 2024, and we are on target to reach that goal with two families now planting new PFWB churches in Melbourne Florida and Richmond Virginia. With this increase in numbers, we have initiated a new ministry called *District Care Pastors*. In each district we have appointed several of these District Care Pastors who are available to help us better meet the pastoral needs of all of our ministers, right there in your district. Again, all of this was part of our focus on *Increase in Numbers* and with your help, we did it.

**Faith Walk** - The next focal point was one we called FaithWalk. This has to do with measuring our spiritual development as individuals and as an organization; things like our daily devotional life, our commitment to prayer, our passion in worship and our love for others. While it isn't the most important measurement, it is worthy of mention that over the past four years we've seen our ministers tithes and our local church tithes to the denomination increase consistently year to year! Also during these four years we implemented something called "*Serve Week*" where we assist our churches in setting aside one week out of the year to focus on serving outside the walls of their local churches in their community. Every year we receive heart warming stories of how our churches have gone into their communities to serve. In 2020 we led our churches to participate in a global evangelism initiative called *GO 2020* training and motivating our church members to share the gospel with others. And we also introduced a new Bible Reading program called *The Table* which is being embraced by many. These are just some of the ways that we've seen our people grow in their *FaithWalk*. And it was all possible because of your help.

**Equipping the Churches** - In 2017 we began a partnership with *Right Now Media* offering, at no cost to our ministers, excellent video materials from some of the nation's most well known preachers and teachers. Also that year, we began giving to all of our ministers every year, again at no cost to our ministers, a thumb drive with over a years worth of sermon material to aid our ministers in their own sermon preparation. In 2018 we introduced the *Growth Track*, our very own PFWB discipleship program designed to train and equip our church members in their spiritual growth. In 2019 we began to make improvements in the areas of *graphic design as well as social media and web presence*. This included a complete revamp of our web site and development of our brand new *PFWB Church App*. And we also introduced the *Children's & Youth Leaders Hangouts*. These are online sessions via Zoom offered monthly to those who lead children's and youth ministries in our local churches. One final thing to mention is the PFWB Coaching Network for pastors. Last year, in the midst of the pandemic, we realized that post Covid, many churches would need help moving forward, so we have developed a coaching network. At no cost to our pastors, we make available, professional coaching.

These were just some of the initiatives launched these past four years as part of our commitment toward *Equipping the Churches*. and we could not have done it without your support.

## 2021 - WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Perhaps you've heard me say it before, that our mission as a denomination is to come alongside our ministers and churches to train and equip them to fulfill God's purpose in their community. Stated more simply; "*We exist to help our pastors and churches*". That's what we do. That's why we're here, to help our churches accomplish God's purpose for their church in their community. We state our mission like this - We Help Pastors & Churches. We offer assistance when they're searching for a pastor, making sure they have qualified prospects to consider. We work closely with Deacon and Elder boards when conflicts arise in the church. We assist churches when they are seeking to enhance their Sunday morning worship experience. We provide discipleship resources for every age group. We offer training in things like outreach and evangelism. We sponsor events designed to help build healthy churches. In other words, we help them fulfill God's purpose in their community. That's our mission. That's what we do...We Help Churches.

Moving forward, this will continue to be our mission, to help our churches get where it is they believe God is calling them. With God's help and with your continued faithful support, we will see the Lord do even more than we could ask or imagine. 2020 will go down in history as the year that changed everything. Our social norms changed. Leisure activities came to a halt. Worship patterns were disrupted. It just seems like everything changed. And yet, nothing has changed. God is still Sovereign. Jesus is still Lord of all. The Spirit is still moving. The church is still alive. God's Word has not changed. His Holy standard has not changed. His grace is still amazing. His love is still unconditional. His mercies are still new every morning. Though it may seem like Covid changed everything...nothing has changed! And by faith we declare that our best days are not behind us... they are before us! By faith I declare, the rest shall be the best!

In conclusion let me say what an honor and a joy it has been to serve you, the people who are the PFWB, these past four years. Our team stands ready to serve you in any way we can. May God bless you, your family, and your ministry and may God continue to bless our great denomination!

Randy Carter

General Superintendent