

Rocky Mountain  
Church of Christ

# *Compelled by Love*



*"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."*

*2 Corinthians 5:14-15*

# *Compelled by Love - To become like Christ*

## **Introduction**

The intent of this text is to describe the focus, purpose, and goals for the spiritual journey of the Rocky Mountain Church of Christ. This text is not designed to be a permanent document. It simply gives direction to our journey with some specific goals for the year 2007. The church our Lord established is not an institution, it is an *organism*; it is not a place, it is a *people*; it is not a program, it is about purpose. The Rocky Mountain Church of Christ (RMCC) welcomes all individuals that wish to be a part of a community that is lead by God's Spirit and fed by his Word.

The Rocky Mountain Church looks forward to the year 2007. RMCC realizes that the culture and time in which we live is rapidly changing. To effectively share the "Good News" of Jesus Christ with this changing culture, we must be willing to develop new methods of sharing the gospel without changing God's message. As we travel different cultural roads, the environment and dust of that journey obviously affects our lives, our perception of life, and the lives of those around us. The challenge of the community of Christ is always to uphold the character and image of our Lord while living in a worldly environment.

The Rocky Mountain Church of Christ consists of individuals that are devoted to knowing Christ, not just facts about him, but growing to become a reflection of Christ. We are people compelled by the love our God has for us, and we, in turn, attempt to reflect the light so that others may see. God sent his Son to live among us so that we might know God. Because He loved us, we love others and share the message of Christ's redeeming love with other peoples.

All individuals are encouraged to be a part of His community of people. It is a privilege to serve together with like-minded people as seekers following and honoring God.

Because He first loved us,

Roy D. Ramsey  
For the Rocky Mountain Church of Christ

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

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## **Our Focus**

### **Love God, Love others**

Our focus is on God. The center of our attention is to “**love the Lord our God** with all of our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength, **loving our neighbors** as ourselves,” and to “**love one another** as Christ has loved us.” Mark 12:30-31, John 13:34. We love because He first loved us.

## **Our Purpose**

### **To Reflect God**

Our purpose is to reflect God. God has called us to be His disciples, His followers and servants of one another. The Rocky Mountain Church **seeks to arouse within the heart of each follower of Jesus Christ a sense of purpose**, an awareness of their own responsibility to reflect God. The church is a community of seekers who desire to follow in the footsteps of our Lord. Each individual Christian must come to a life-altering understanding of their reason for being, and then to act upon it.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as through God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **Our Goal**

### **Point others to a relationship with God**

The Rocky Mountain Church is **recapturing a missional vision**, both individually and collectively, of what God has called the church to be and represent. Members of the church are daily caring and sharing with those around them. As the church, the individual members, interact with those about them, they reflect God, giving direction to life in Jesus Christ. The Rocky Mountain Church seeks to impact the lives of those they come in contact with by revealing the heart of Jesus in their daily lives.

Jesus called his followers to be salt, leaven, and light to the world. The members of the church participate into the “dough” of their community, allowing light to dispel darkness. They bring faith, hope, and love to those with whom they come in contact. The followers of Jesus must live an exemplary life before others so that they may see Christ. The Rocky Mountain Church knows its focus.

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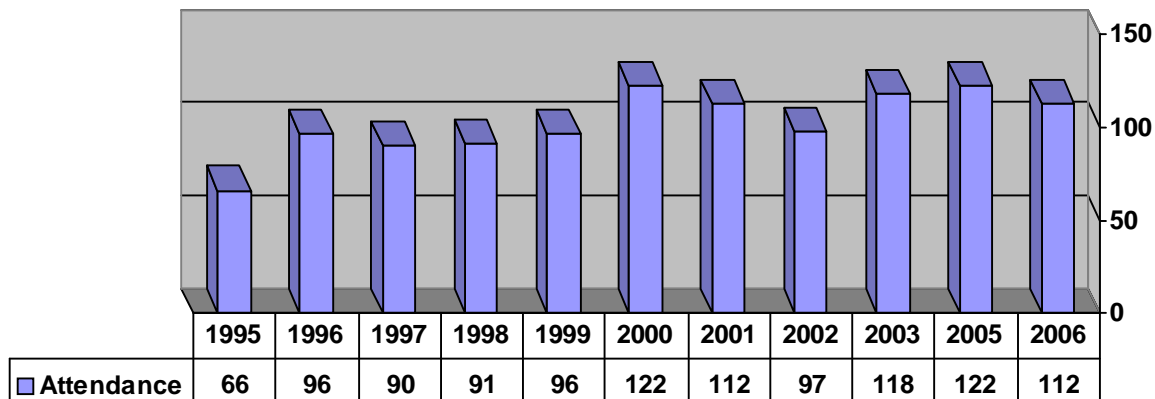
## *Vision*

In 1994 a small group of individuals in Helena, Montana, had a vision, a hope, and a dream. They envisioned individuals serving Christ with a purpose in their life. They envisioned sharing their belief with others and growing into a large body of believers that would affect the community in which they lived. They diligently sought to fulfill that purpose.

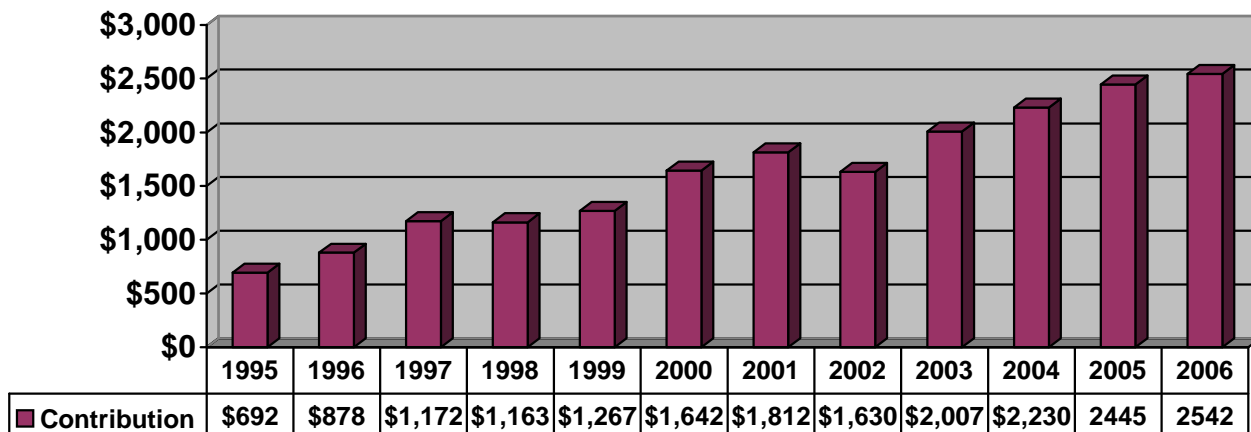
Through the years their vision has grown and so has their numbers. Each year an assessment is made to measure success and evaluate shortcomings. There have been occasions of decline as well as growth. The information from those years has helped to evaluate and recognize developing trends.

### **Trends of the Rocky Mountain Church**

Attendance 1995 - 2006



Contribution 1995 - 2006



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## **Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus Christ**

Rocky Mountain Church of Christ is growing. In the past 11 years the congregation has almost doubled in attendance. The church's giving has even seen more growth. These are measuring tools that reflect the outward growth. What can not be seen from these facts is how individuals are growing on the inside. One of the benefits of being a part of the Rocky Mountain Church is our plan to help individuals grow - to grow in the understanding of God's love, the Bible, and the application of that knowledge into their everyday life.

The RMCC's focus is on **Loving God, Loving others, and Pointing others to Christ**. Once the focus is clear, one must seek God's direction in planning for the future. Much prayer has been given asking for God to work through these human elements to reveal His will and course for the future. If the church is a group of followers building on the foundation of Christ, then the church must believe, act, and walk like Christ. The objective of the RMCC for the year 2007 is to **Become like Christ**. One becomes like Christ **Through our Beliefs, Through our Practices, and Through our Virtues**.

## **Building God's Kingdom**

The RMCC wants to be good stewards as participants in the building of God's Kingdom. The foundation is Christ. However, one must be careful how they build on that foundation. The RMCC's desire is to participate in the growth and building up of individuals that honor and glorify God. It is the prayer of leadership that God would grant them wisdom as together they seek to be "Wise Master Builders."

*So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:7-11

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## **The Growing Progression**

### **Learning about the source of light.**

**O**

**V** When individuals come in contact with the reflected light of Christ they often have many questions, questions of why, what, when, and how. At the Rocky Mountain Church of Christ questions are welcomed. We help you to discover the answers for yourself. Our method of learning is a non-threatening, self-discovery type of instruction. You will find the answers to your questions as you discover Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and how you can become a light in a world of darkness.

**L**

### **Obtaining a better relationship with Christ.**

**V**

**E** Growing in your relationship with God is a process that the Rocky Mountain Church helps you to accomplish. Individuals will spend time with you at your convenience to help you discover the answers to your questions as you study the life of Christ.

**L**

**O**

### **Vessel; becoming a vessel in Christ hand.**

**E**

When individuals learn of God's caring love, they begin to trust Him. Their relationship grows and the individuals want to express their appreciation to God. At the Rocky Mountain Church of Christ we help individual members discover, develop, and use their talents, viewing ourselves as vessels, instruments, in Christ's hand. We are servants of Jesus Christ. Jesus also came to serve not to be served. If we are going to be His followers we too must serve one another, reflecting His love to the world.

**L**

**O**

**V**

### **Echo His Love**

Christ went around doing good... because God was with him (Acts10:38).

At this point in one's growth, an individual also goes about doing good using their God-given talents and abilities to bring light into a world of darkness because God is with them as well. At the Rocky Mountain Church we do not claim that we are the light, we simply "... reflect the Lord's glory, and are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18

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## **I. Learning About the Source of Light**

**Objective: Sharing the Light with individuals and our community.**

**Recipients: Community, Church, and Visitors**

**Ministry Leader: Shaun Peterson**

### **A. Suggested Goals:**

- Contact all visitors to see how RMCC can help them.
  - Welcome to RMCC.
  - Direct to other ministries.
  - Study with individuals.
- Get to know visitors on a personal level.
- Reach out to church and community at least 6 times a year with felt needs opportunities. i.e., Financial Peace, Dynamic Marriage, etc.
- Produce 12 new, effective TV ads this year.
  - Evaluate, improve, and adapt TV ads.
  - Air ads a least 30 times each month.
- Teaching Introductory Bible Lessons (first 8 lessons)
- Teach Discovery Classes (101)

### **B. Things needed to accomplish above tasks**

- Individuals willing to help produce TV ads.
- Dates & Plans for: Financial Peace, Dynamic Marriage, VBS, and Parenting w/L&L

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## **II. Obtaining a Better Relationship with Christ**

**Objective: Spiritual Maturity Development**

**Intended Recipients: New and developing member of RMCC**

**Maturity Ministry Leader: Jerry Botts**

The objective of the maturity ministry is to help new members obtain a better relationship with Christ. This can be accomplished through the use of "Second Teach" ministry, small groups, and other fellowship & ministry activities.

### **A. Suggested Goals**

Maturity minister will help new members continue their spiritual journey with Christ. One of the methods of helping them to grow is the study of Jesus' life. All new members should complete the classes.

- Provide 2<sup>nd</sup> Teach Program to all new members.
- Train leaders for 2<sup>nd</sup> Teach Program at least once a year.
- New Beginnings classes.
- Teach Discovering Spiritual Maturity Classes (201)
- All members integrate into the LIFE of our Small Group Ministry.
- Teach the Life Group leader training course at least once a year.

### **B. Things needed to accomplish above tasks**

- Revise and edit 2<sup>nd</sup> Teach material.

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## **III. Becoming a vessel in Christ hand**

**Objective: To help individual members to discover, develop, and use their talents.**

**Recipients: Individual members who want to express their appreciation to God.**

**Ministry leader: Eric Creel**

Our objective is to help every member to find his or her gifts, talents, and abilities, and then create an effective ministry that will utilize those individual abilities.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).

### **A. Suggested Goals**

- Teach Ministry Course at least once a year.
- Help each member complete their SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experience) profile and discover individual ministries. Updated at least once a year.
- Develop a Ministry Fair once a year with sign-up sheets and brochures to highlight each ministry as a means of informing and recruiting people for individual ministries – early winter
- Keep records of the SHAPE database that lists members’ spiritual gifts and their scores from the York Gifts Analysis.
- Develop community service outreach projects for Church and for life groups in 2007
  - Do several “God’s Love” projects
  - Do Community Service to Elderly and Single Moms
- Collect Items For Food Share
- Organize 3 “Bring Your Neighbor Day Sundays”
- Teach Ministry Material – 301, or other material.

### **B. Things needed to accomplish above tasks**

- Plan dates for “Bring Your Neighbor Day”

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## IV. Echo His Love

**Objective: Individual members to use their God-given talents and abilities to tell their story of God bringing light into the world.**

**Recipients: Mature Members**

**Ministry Leaders: Roy Ramsey**

At this point in one's growth in Christ, we can truly achieve God's goal for us. Very simply, we now echo His love. We have learned of God's love for us. When one is united with Christ by their love, faith, repentance, and baptism, they are filled with the joy of His Spirit. As one grows to deeper understand that love, they can not help but share their joy with others.

### **A. Suggested Goals**

- Develop effective, relevant, and Biblically based lessons to be presented on Sunday.
- Offer an Effective Evangelism course at least once a year
- Conduct 100 one on one studies this year.
- Update Websites
- Review, and edit existing teaching materials.
- Produce culturally relevant teaching materials.
- Help each member of RMCC to understand and feel the joy of Christ, so that they feel compelled to share the love of God with others.
- Begin a Prison Ministry
- Assist other churches with their work in evangelism and growth as requested.
- Begin planting seeds for church plantings in Montana.
- Reaching out to other Churches in the Area

### **B. Things needed to accomplish above tasks**

- Front Page software
- High volume Photocopier: duplex, sort/correlate, 250 sheet paper tray, 11 x 17 paper, card stock, and interface w/ computer.

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## **V. Honoring God in Worship:**

**Objective: Create an excellent, vibrant, enthusiastic, and reverent worship service that helps Christians praise God and encourage one another, while still remaining relevant and inspiring to the unchurched.**

**Recipients: Everyone**

**Ministry Leader: Eric Creel**

The worship leader will facilitate worship planning with our primary objective and responsibility to worship God in spirit and in truth. This planning encourages everyone to participate in meaningful, reverent, inspiring, and vibrant worship.

The areas of worship that we concentrate on are Sunday Morning, Devotionals, and Special Occasions. Maintaining a celebrative worship environment encourages people to fully develop themselves as disciples (followers) of Christ. As we follow Christ we will naturally want to tell others about his love wanting to become like him.

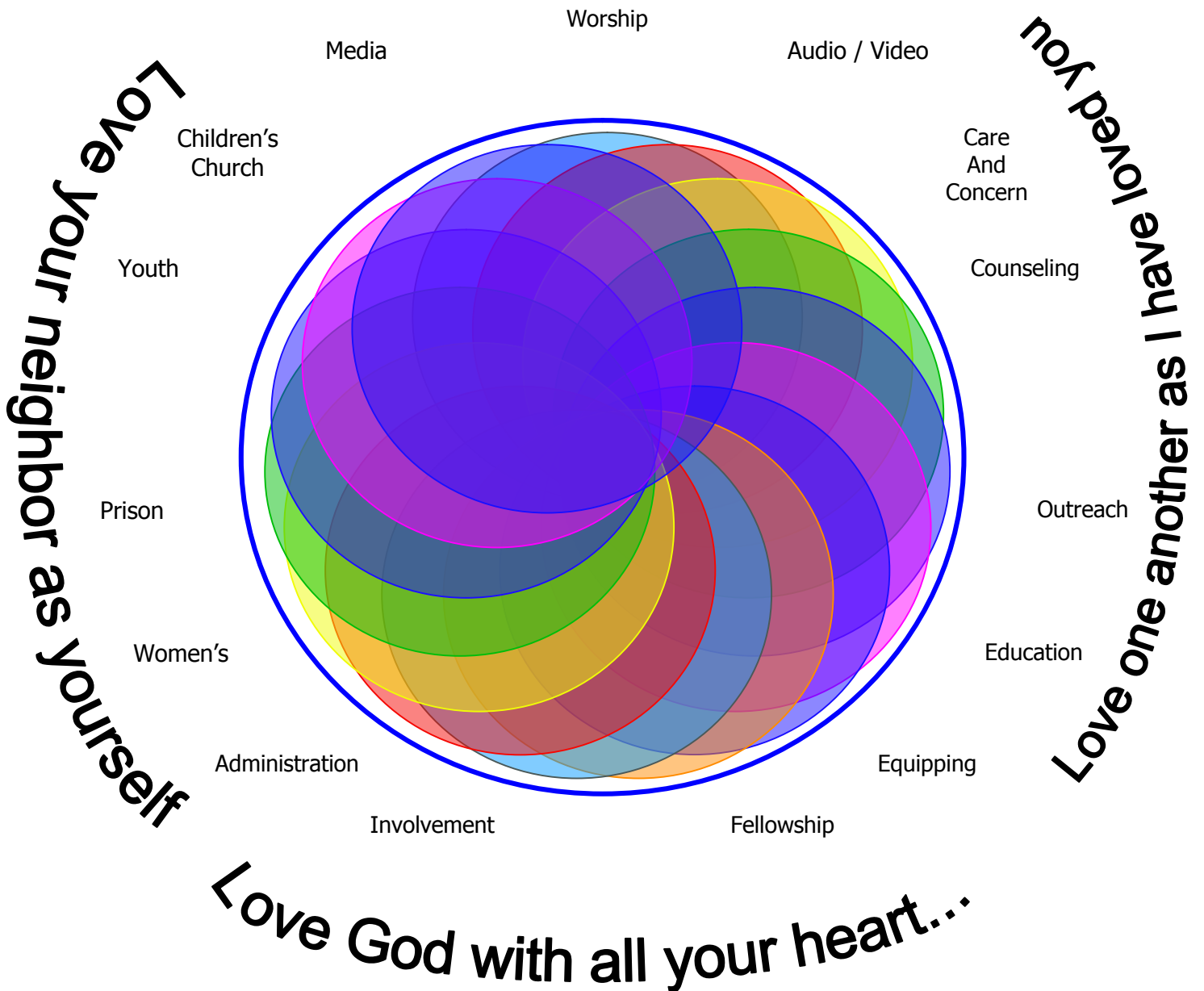
### **A. Goals**

- Develop a training workshop for the men who participate at every level of the worship service to enhance a meaningful worship experience for the church.
- Continue singing our new songs in worship until they become second nature.

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**Ministries of the Rocky Mountain Church of Christ**

**God so loved the world**



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## **Vision 2007 Summary**

The Rocky Mountain Church of Christ has experienced decline and growth over the past 11 years. During the past year the church has plateaued and has now started to grow again. Exciting times are ahead. During the month of January, 2007 our attendance has steadily climbed. Our giving has increased by 1 ½ times. People are excited and anticipation is growing for the coming year.

The land purchase has been completed. Excitement about have a new building to use for His glory is growing. We dream and plan of ways to use that facility to bring glory to our Lord. Ideas have been suggested in the sharing of this Vision. There are still other ideas and dreams that need to be shared and dreamed. Together these goals and dreams can be accomplished, but only with the involvement of everyone.

The church is the body of Christ. It takes all the parts of the body working together in order for the body to function as it should. All parts of the body are important; there are no dispensable parts. As the church works together, it reflects the glory of our Lord. Each day each person is a reflection of their part of the body. People without Christ are watching, observing, the way members of the church interact with each other and those in their community. They are observing the kind of speech used on the job, in schools, and in personal lives. The church must bring light and life to a dark world, letting our light shine that all may see Christ living in us.

The following is a summary of our goals for 2007

1. "In Touch" Prayer line in place for urgent requests by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Long-range plans for all education levels by the end of the year.
3. Updated information of all members by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Review and editing of all teaching materials by end of the year.
5. Updated Website by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. Website updated on a weekly basis by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
7. Plans for new building submitted to city for approval.
8. Plan of Funding of new facility in place by end of year.
9. Leadership development; Life Groups, Second Teach, Leadership
10. Development of a four (4) year vision plan for the church.
11. Conduct 100, one-on-one studies this year.
12. Contact every visitor that attends.
13. Follow-up on those those are not at worship.
14. Life groups with 100% participation.
15. Three "Bring your Neighbor" days.
16. Six out reach to community opportunities. i.e. FPU, Dynamic Marriage, etc.
17. Update TV ads, 12 new ads, and air 30 times per mo.
18. All members complete, or update SHAPE assessment.
19. Begin Prison ministry.

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## **Closing Comments**

Wow, what a year! The church has made many strides forward this past year. It seemed at times the church took three steps forward and then took two steps back. In the last part of the year we moved forward. Wounds have healed. New relationships are forming. Roy and Margaret joined the team, and we are anticipating a marvelous new year.

Growth and healing is not an accident. It takes work. Relationships are complex. The Rocky Mountain Church realizes that it must also plan and improve communication, but above all, it must continue to seek God's will and guidance. This church will only grow to the level that its leaders grow. Together leaders and members must grow in their trust and obedience to God. God is the one who gives the increase. Our task is to plant, water, and have faith in the creator.

New people are searching for the Lord each day. Each week one or two visitors meet together with us. They are seeking the Lord. The harvest fields are ready. The question is will we respond to the Lord of the harvest. Let us labor together for the glory of our King as we express our love for Him and our love for others, building one another up in love.

The Rocky Mountain Church encourages you to let this year be the most exciting year in your life. Reflecting God's love is easy; you just become like Christ. This year may you become more like Christ as the church learns and discovers the beliefs, practices, and virtues of our Lord. May God bless this body of disciples as we follow Christ.

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

Three things that must continue and increase –

1. Faith, Trusting God in everything.
2. Hope, The assurance of the blessings found in Christ.
3. Love, Loving God, Loving one another, and Loving others.

**Because He loved us, we love Him, and therefore share His love with others.**