

One Dream – A Wonderful Life

I got a little nostalgic this past week looking back at where Linglestown Life and many of us were almost five years ago. It was exciting to look back at the dreams 120 people had in November 2007 and to realize that what God inspired us to dream became a reality.

Let me mention a few:

- An elevator
- A stage
- Multi-purpose room
- Larger hospitality space
- Stop the leaky roof

If you were not here five years ago you can't begin to imagine how much this place has changed. But the change has not only been physical; we dreamed of ministry and ways to connect with our community. Some of those dreams that became a reality:

- A changed attitude in our youth ministry
- The LAHMB's ministry (while not mentioned by name the concept existed)
- Café ministry to LCNS parents
- Revitalized missions emphasis, including hands-on work and trips
- The choir visits to the Nursing Home
- And reaching out to the community through the use of the FLC

When we began to dream we believed that God wanted Linglestown Life to change lives! Our dream was inspired by the fact that God had been changing *our* lives; and we wanted others to experience that same transformation.

This morning many of us who are here have been changed because we were willing to dream God's dream. And many of you are here because we believed that turning a dream into a reality would also change *your* life.

But God never intends for his people to stop dreaming, or to stop changing lives-theirs or others.

As a matter of fact the key verse for ONEderful describes not only the change that takes place in us; but the purpose of that change!

But you are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. You were chosen to tell about the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful life. 1 Peter 2:9 NCV

ONEderful is our commitment over the next two years to tell about the wonderful acts of God and help people move out of darkness into God's wonderful life.

Let me tell you how we see ONEderful helping us reach our goal of changing lives.

ONE Church

Our ONE Church expressed through many ministries to change ONE Life

We are ONE wonderful church! One wonderful church that is expressed in a multitude of ways. And whether you consider yourself to be involved in all that happens as a part of our ministry; the truth is we are all connected to every ministry!

It has been a joy this past week to attend the unveiling events and hear the stories of how our ministries are impacting people's lives in wonderful ways. What is even more exciting is to know the passion with which our staff and volunteers are working to plan life changing ministry for the next two years.

If you are like me I bet you can think of something wonderful about these areas of ministry.

- Worship Arts
- Children and Youth Ministries
- LCNS/Café Ministry
- Community Life
- Missions
- Administration /Facilities

What is equally exciting is to think about the wonderful ways these ministries are planning to change lives in the coming years.

ONEderful is not just about our ministries and the wonderful facilities that God has provided us; ONEderful is expressed through ONE Gift.

ONE Gift

Our ONE Gift expressing our commitment to change ONE Life

All of these ministries require our commitment to a generous lifestyle that enables us to give abundantly as God leads. I've shared over the last several weeks some key foundational principles as a part of our weekly giving talks.

One of those points I want to stress again is that the reason we give is not for what we want *from* you, but what we want *for* you. And what we want *for* you is to experience

the blessing that comes through living by faith as we obey God's call to give sacrificially. And we will talk more about that opportunity to give in the coming weeks.

So let me explain one reason we created the word ONEderful.

ONEderful is a new way for us to remember that all of God's tithes and our offerings make life change possible through our ministries and facilities. ONEderful is based on the concept that all our giving is united to fulfill our mission and ministry.

How is it different from what we have been doing to fund our ministries and mortgage?

1. We are asking you for a 2 year commitment to four categories of ministry. Those categories are listed in your magazine on page 16. Those categories are Ministries, Administration, Debt Reduction and Missions. The goal for the next two years is \$1.6 million dollars.

And as we act in faith we not only believe that God can help us achieve that goal, but I believe exceed the goal, so that we can believe of God as Paul says, "that God can do exceedingly more than we can ask or imagine."

2. Recognizing that ministry and facilities are interconnected we are moving to a new giving strategy called ONE Fund. No longer will we ask you to divide your gifts into separate envelopes. We will no longer ask you for a one year commitment to operations and a separate three year commitment to our mortgage payments (as we have done through Enter the Dream).

Instead of thinking about our giving in terms of different categories, we want to see every gift as One Gift given to One Church to change One Life.

Let me tell you about one specific area where ONEderful will make a big impact. As I mentioned earlier, a revitalized missions emphasis was one of the dreams God placed in our hearts five years ago. Well as you see in our Mission Funding category our goal is to fund nearly \$30,000 worth of ministry.

In the past, we've only funded missions to the extent that anyone placed a gift in the Mission Envelop. With ONE Fund we are committing to put that \$30,000 into the hands of people who are changing lives locally, nationally and internationally.

What is equally exciting is to realize that our Mission Team, *The Church Has Left the Building*, is going to be intentional about getting our heads, hearts and hands to follow our dollars. We don't just want to give money to missions we want to give our lives- so that we can be changed and so that those we serve can experience change as well.

I want to stress one very important thing about ONEderful; ONEderful is not about money, ONEderful is about changing lives! That brings us to...

ONE Life

ONE Church, through ONE Gift, changing ONE Life

One thing I hope you will do over the next few weeks is read some of the stories in your ONEderful magazine. (And don't forget to bring it back each week.) Also, we are going to be sharing some other ONEderful stories of life change both personally during worship and on our website.

I want to introduce you to someone whose life has been changing over the last several years; and specifically over the last year as God and others have been working with him.

Mike Melhorn, a life changed and changing.

1. Tell us briefly about yourself.
2. How did you get involved at Linglestown Life?
3. What would you identify as a life changing experience in your life?
4. What began to be transformed in your life?
5. How is that effecting your everyday life?
6. How has your life changed and how are you changing the lives of others?

I want to challenge you to think about how God has been changing your life as you have been impacted by the ministries of Linglestown Life. If you would, I'd love for you to share that story with me by sending me an email at ONEderful@LinglestownLife.org or just write it out and hand it to me.

I want to challenge you to leave here this morning with two questions: 'Who changed your life?' And, 'Whose life will you change?'

The first is pretty simple. I shared some of my story of the people who changed my life on the inside front page of the magazine.

But I really want you to think about the second question over the next few weeks:

Whose life will you change? I believe that there are many lives yet to be changed in our church, our community and around the world. As we declare the wonderful acts of God through our lives and our ministries we will see another dream fulfilled- a dream birthed in our hearts by the Spirit of God and made a reality by those who welcome Jesus into their lives.