



December 30, 2007

The Gathering Way

(What does the G3 on your t-shirt stand for?)

by Dr. David Foster

"Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are **members** of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian." (Eph 2:19)

Advancing the American church in the brave new world

That is **wall-less**; meaning the death of distance.

That is **wireless**; meaning anyone, anywhere, anytime

That is **worn-out**; meaning the rise of complexity.

The 3 G's that define our plan and process

"Any enterprise is **built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense**, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts. A wise man is mightier than a strong man. Wisdom is mightier than strength." (Prov 24:3-5 TLB)

Step 1: Together we will **Gather**.

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." (Psa 122:1 KJV)

"**We should not stop gathering** together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming." (Heb. 10:25)

Step 2: Together we will **Grow**.

We will grow together.

"Whoever loves God must also love his brother." (1 John 4:21 NIV)

We will grow **up**.

"Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times--speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly--and so **BECOME MORE AND MORE IN EVERY WAY LIKE CHRIST WHO IS THE HEAD OF HIS BODY, THE CHURCH**. Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." (Eph 4:15-16 TLB)

We will grow **out**.

". . . Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; . . ." (Eph 4:11-14 TLB)

We will grow **more**.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. **AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.**" (Acts 2:41-47 NIV)

Step 3: Together we will **Give**.

"So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach God's Good News. For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—Jews first and also Gentiles. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life.'" (Rom. 1:15-17 NLT)

"I do all this for the **sake** of the gospel, that I may SHARE IN ITS BLESSINGS." (1 Cor 9:23, NIV)