

# NEW: FINDING YOUR HUMANITY

## THE JOURNEY SO FAR

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – January 29, 2017

1. Open in prayer thanking Jesus for a beautiful, breathtaking 7 years!
2. We celebrated the Lord's faithfulness to TC in 2016! Visit our website to see the "2016 Year in Review" and discuss.
3. How did the video "The Journey So Far" impact you?
4. Pastor Derwin talked about three things that need to happen in order for TC to keep the momentum going that God is generating:
  1. Become the vision.
    - a. Read the vision of TC together:  
*The Vision of Transformation Church is to be a multiethnic, multigenerational mission-shaped community that loves God completely (Upward), ourselves correctly (Inward) and our neighbors compassionately (Outward).*
    - b. Pastor Derwin said, "The vision of Transformation Church is birthed out of the very heart of Jesus." Read Matthew 22:37-40 (the Great Commandment) and Matthew 28:18-20 (the Great Commission).
    - c. Why is this vision critically important and how does it affect your daily life?
  2. Become a partner in the vision.
    - a. Worship, Connect, Serve, Give, Invite are "Holy Habits that help form Christ in us." How have the Holy Habits blessed you?
    - b. Why is partnering in the vision important to the future of TC?
  3. Become a messenger of the vision.
    - a. Read Romans 10:12-15. Note: Paul was dealing with ethnic division between Jews and Gentiles. The Gospel removes barriers between God and between people, thus anyone who calls on the Name of Jesus is equal in God's family. This is how Paul was able to have ethnic harmony in the ethnically diverse churches in Rome. And this how we are able to be a multiethnic church.  
*For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*  
Romans 10:12-15 NIV
    - b. How are you challenged to reach lost people and invite them to TC as result of this passage?
    - c. Read the email Pastor Derwin received and discussed.

Pastor Derwin,

*I have been attending TC now for about eight months. I found myself separating from my second husband with four children and felt I had nowhere to turn. I never grew up in church, I attended on holidays and did an occasional vacation bible school but always felt like I didn't belong. I just wasn't "churchy" enough. Something led me to TC, I wasn't sure what it was then, I know now the good Lord had a plan. I attended my first sermon and I felt like I was the only one in the room. It scared the crap out of me. I've never felt worthy of love, between a broken home and a first marriage where my husband left me for someone else, to my second marriage that was falling apart before my eyes, I knew I was unloveable. Still, I kept coming back. Each week I would count down the days to Sunday because that is where I found hope and security. No matter what happened throughout the week, I knew I could come there and feel comfort and love. I chose to get baptized and my two oldest children did as well over the summer. At that point, I feel like my life changed. I started to feel worthy and deserving of love and could give that in return. I invited my soon to be ex-husband to attend church and to my surprise he came. That was in October, he comes every Sunday now. We are working through our marital issues and focusing on forgiveness and grace. Pastor Derwin, you, Vicki, your staff and everyone at TC has completely changed the view I had about church. It's not fake, it's not gossipy. It's love, its warmth, it's Jesus. Thank you for helping to take a girl that never thought love was possible and showing her the endless possibilities through Christ. You are truly a blessing to me, my marriage and our children.*

**Soul-tattoo:** Let's trust Jesus to make His-story through us!

Close in prayer.