



Love Like Jesus

PRAISE BOOKLET 2016-2017

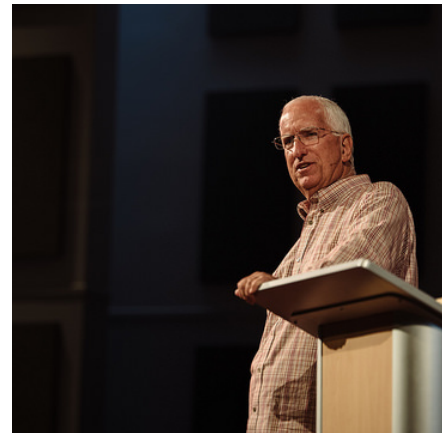
Hi South Delta!

Welcome to our 2017 Praise Book. Here, you will read stories of how God has been, and is, at work among us.

Recently, on Sunday mornings, we have been teaching and encouraging each person at SDBC to engage with our mission to Love Like Jesus, as well as giving practical guidance for how to do this: 1. by speaking biblical truth to our community and our absolute need for a relationship with Jesus Christ; 2. engaging with our community in honest and real ways where we live out the gospel truth in our everyday lives; 3. equipping all of us to serve God wherever we are because we are the “church” at all times and in all places; 4. we are working at building community or more simply, “doing life together,” supporting each other in community and inviting and introducing the non-churched to our community. We

“...we begin to look more and more like Jesus...”

have been and will continue to use a growing community group structure to help accomplish this purpose; and 5. move from self-interest to self-sacrifice. We seek to fill our hearts and minds with the presence of the Holy Spirit so that individually, we begin to look more and more like Jesus because we turn our focus toward the needs of others.



The elders and staff are excited about this refreshed vision. It has given us a solid foundation for how we view ministry and informs our role as part of God’s church. This vision will guide us as we look at and consider all that we endeavor to do and accomplish at SDBC.

This vision refreshment developed through times of concentrated prayer and discussions by the elders and pastors. It developed over a season of holding town halls and elder retreats; intentionally seeking God in establishing a new vision and direction for our church as we continue to seek God’s direction for us in finding our next lead pastor.

This past year has been one of progress for our congregation. We are sharing just a few of those stories here. I encourage you to read it all and give all praise to God for His goodness to us. It has been my (our) joy and privilege to serve you this past year.

May God bless you,
Rick Burdett - Interim Lead Pastor

Elder's Note

As I considered writing this, I knew I would mention transition. As we reflect back on 2016/2017, we acknowledge our church is in transition. We said goodbye to Paul and Wendi Johnson, Rick Burdett stepped up to lead our church, Jordan and Paul have stretched and grown as ministry and preaching opportunities became available, and we welcomed Kyle MacDonald as our new youth and young adult director. These are just a few of the transitions we've seen this year.

Yes, we are a church in transition but isn't that what we are called to be? In the great commission, Jesus tells us to "go and make disciples." As His church, we should always be striving for the next goal; we should be pushing against being comfortable.

The elder board's 2016/2017 year began with a retreat. I count this as one of the highlights of the past year as it provided an opportunity for the elders and pastors to discuss various items in a comfortable environment without the pressure of time and deadlines. At this retreat, we clearly felt the need for a refreshed vision for our church; one that would motivate and engage us as we press on with the mission God has laid before us. As we explore "Love Like Jesus," I'm confident that this vision will challenge and motivate us in the years to come.

Another highlight for the past year came at the fall business meeting with the affirmation of Gerard van Dop to the elder board. Gerard brings much to the board, but he also is the ninth member, which brings us to our full complement. This is worthy of note as we have operated with fewer members in the past. Following the 2017 AGM, we will release David van Til and Gerald Neufeld after each serving six years on the elder board. Each of these gentlemen have made significant impacts on our church and elder board, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks.

For some, a policy document might not be worthy of being considered a "highlight," but the elders are pleased to have accomplished the milestone of approving our updated board policy manual. The initiation of our lead pastor search process has also been a key focus of our board agenda. We are blessed to have Craig Kraft leading this team and continue to pray for the man that God will lead us to. Please continue to pray for the search team and our next lead pastor.

So yes, we are in transition and God is leading. As an elder board, we pray constantly for His wisdom and guidance, and we are immensely thankful for His blessings. As you reflect on this year, join us in a prayer of thanksgiving, as well as praying for boldness, strength, and ability beyond our own to love like Jesus as we seek to honour Jesus, who brings hope to all.

In His service,
Peter Grierson - Chairman, Board of Elders



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strategic plan

Jesus is at the centre of everything that we do as a church, and we strive to honour Him as a community. We believe that Jesus is the only hope for this broken world, and

therefore, we want to tell everyone in our community about Jesus. As a church, we decided to do this through our strategic plan focused on

Church Health, Compassion Initiatives, Global Missions, and Leadership Development. This strategic plan concluded in March

2017, when we unveiled our new mission and vision: **LOVE LIKE JESUS.** We are excited to see how God will work in and through us in the future.

SDBC Kids

By Paul Park

At SDBC, we value children as God's gift to us. The bible teaches us that Jesus delighted in children, and we, too, value children as an integral part of our church family. Being a united body of Christ with diverse members can be challenging especially in a multigenerational community. However, at SDBC Kids, we see intentional relationships being built across generations. We see the older generations pouring into children and young families of our church. I want to share a unique story that highlights this beautiful multigenerational community:

Kim Griffin is the department head of our preschool room for SDBC Kids. She serves by teaching children at our church, but she also pours into some of our volunteers to develop them into leaders and to make them disciples of Jesus. For example, Kim mentors Sydney—an SDBC Kids leader currently in grade 7—

“We see the older generations pouring into children and young families of our church.”

and invests in her so that she could grow in Christ. Kim is regularly scheduled to serve in the preschool room alongside Sydney so that she can coach her to be a more effective leader. She takes Sydney out to grab hot chocolate every other week—there is a time commitment, which is a significant investment from both

people. Sydney and Kim developed an intentional relationship of discipleship. As Kim mentors Sydney, she shows interest in this young girl's life, she listens to her attentively, teaches, challenges, and encourages her, which all amount to Kim loving Sydney really well. Kim is practicing our vision statement of “Love Like Jesus” by intentionally forming a relationship with this next generation leader. Kim reaching out to Sydney shows us what community can look like when we choose to invest in others; when we decide to love like Jesus across generations. This is the community that we want to build at SDBC so that we may be a community united across generations for the glory of Jesus, our Saviour.

FIRST STEPS

By Katie Yakiwchuk

First Steps Preschool has been a part of our church and community since 1999. From the first planning meeting, to the current rebranding and launch of our new website, one thing has remained constant – to love the children and their families just as Jesus loves us. Every week, 30 children and their families are welcomed to our preschool. We are walking through this messy and exhausting season of life alongside these families. With so many preschool options for parents to choose from, we strive to set ourselves apart from the rest by loving like Jesus. First Steps not only provides a safe, loving, and fun place for children to learn and grow, our teachers model Christ's love through teaching prayer, respect, and acceptance.

One example of this is a young student who was struggling with bad dreams during the night. The child told us of how the scary dreams kept them awake and they were afraid to sleep. We taught the child a simple prayer they could say before going to sleep and if they awoke in the night. To be able to teach a young child about prayer and surrendering fears to Christ at the age of three and four years old is a blessing and privilege. Attending our preschool is the child's first experience in formal education, but may also be their first experience with faith and our church community. The foundations being put in place through First Steps can lead to children and their parents attending future SDBC ministries such as Kids Camp, Young Families, Moments for Moms, and Youth. We want to be known not just as an excellent preschool, but as an entry point for future ministries.

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YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

By Jordan Scott

It's been a year of leadership development in youth and young adult ministry. In the summer from May to August, we had Talon Stade, James Cox, and Carter Olive come on board to lead pre-teen, youth, and young adult ministry respectively. After the summer, Talon Stade entered Acadia University to pursue biblical and theological training, James Cox continued on with SDBC for a school year internship in youth ministry, and Carter Olive continued his education in business at



UBCO. Starting in September, we had the unique opportunity to bring on a number of youth interns during the school year while we searched for a Youth and Young Adult director. Jonathan Semke has spent the year helping in our pre-teen ministry (grades 5 to 7) while James Cox and Philip Grierson have been pouring themselves into our teen ministry (grades 8 to 12). It has been a season of mentorship and leadership development as each of these leaders has grown tremendously over the course of the year in their respective roles.

01 Jonathan Semke
Jonathan is 18 years old and wanted to spend his gap year after high school working in ministry. He has excelled over the course of the year in administratively running our Gap Jr. youth night. He has also grown as a communicator, effectively leading a Gap Jr. night, which averages 50 students. We are excited to see Jonathan continue to develop.

02 James Cox
James is 19 and has now interned in youth ministry for two years. His passion for pouring into youth stems from his own experiences participating in youth ministry and the impact it had on his faith. James is the type of leader that prefers to work behind the scenes; putting time and energy into making events, programs, or initiatives happen. He models servant leadership in how he engages as a humble leader.

03 Philip Grierson
Philip is 22 and is currently pursuing an engineering degree from UBC. Despite the heavy school workload, Philip serves in many areas of the church, from leading worship on Sunday morning to co-leading Gap on Sunday night. Over the course of the year, he has grown tremendously as a communicator – being given opportunities to speak at Gap and at church on Sunday morning. We are excited to see Philip continue developing as a speaker.



WOMEN

Interview by Janet Boivin

We have been focusing on leadership development and mentorship this year, and having a blast! We identified four women that we wanted to pour into, and to that end, we have been doing some great things. As a group, we attended a workshop on leadership in the workplace, formed a specific prayer team to support the women, attended the Beth Moore conference together, started one-on-one mentorship, held group

meetings, and engaged in bible studies. These women currently serve in Women in the Word, Moments for Moms, and Children's Ministry. I am so excited to see God continue working in their lives, preparing them to become active disciples engaging in our church, as well as reaching out into the community. Below is an excerpt from an interview with Vania Gallegos-Diaz, Victoria Woeste, Lori Cox, and Kaitlyn Shipowich.

1. What has been the biggest benefit you have discovered about mentorship?

Lori: I always have someone who has more experience with life and different situations that I can count on for guidance and direction.

Victoria: Knowing I always have someone I can turn to who will give me Godly advice and prayer whenever I need it.

2. What would you say to someone considering asking someone to mentor them?

Vania: I always like to encourage people to look for a mentor – it's life changing. The blessing of finding someone that is ahead of you in one way or another is certainly one of the things that helps spur us on to having a better relationship with God, our friends, and our spouse, etc.

“I would say it’s an important part in maturing as a follower of Christ, so just do it!”

Victoria: I would say it’s an important part in maturing as a follower of Christ, so just do it!

3. What would you say to a potential mentor?

Lori: It’s such an important role and will make a lasting impact on people in the next generation.

Kaitlyn: Begin with prayer and asking who God might want you to mentor. I think the best way to start is by asking the person you would like to mentor for coffee (or some other type of casual get together) so that you can get to know one another better. When you feel the time is right, you can ask them if they would like you to mentor them. Discuss some potential things you could work on together or what your specific relationship would look like. Every mentor relationship is different and can be designed to fit just what you both need.

4. How has mentorship helped you as a leader?

Vania: It has made all the difference. When I have doubts about a decision, it has been a blessing to have the confidence to reach out to my mentors and get their input, opinion, and wisdom.

Kaitlyn: I can honestly say I would not be where I am today if I never had a mentor. When I was a new Christian, a woman asked to be my mentor and it changed the course of my life. She helped me understand what the gospel is and how important it is, and was such a support system for me in a time where I felt alone and different. Now, as I am a leader in many areas in my life, the knowledge and confidence she gave me has travelled with me and made me the woman I am today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

By Paul Park

In 2016, we enjoyed a surge in community group interest and participation initiated by a consistent emphasis on becoming a community united at SDBC. We currently have twenty-four groups actively engaging in intentional community. The next challenge for us is that our groups are mostly full and we still have more people desiring to engage in real community. With this new challenge, we pray for new leaders to step up and answer the call to lead. Leading entails taking risks and taking on more than what is asked of you, but when you lead others to Christ, God honours you and blesses you abundantly. Listen to this amazing story of a couple that chose to lead:

Upon stepping inside SDBC, we found ourselves at home, welcomed by the ushers' warm greeting, the worship style, and the message conveyed by the pastors, all reflecting God's love. Now that we had settled down in Tsawwassen, it was time to reflect and reconnect. Therefore, we marked the box, "willing to join a community group," on the Hello Card. In no time, we received Pastor Paul's response, checking every detail of our expectation, including the desired language. Later, he confirmed that all the community groups were full.

How about starting a new Mandarin group yourselves? Are you able to lead?

Sounds like a big idea! Is God going to restore those years when we used to have bible study on weekends, lunch talk during weekdays, and fellowship in Shanghai? It took us two weeks to pray about it. Considering we were new to town, barely known by anyone, it required us to take a risk and a step of faith.

God answered our prayer.

On the first week of February—to our surprise—Jim and Shirley showed up at church. We met each other once last year, but barely knew each other. The sermon that day was on 1 Corinthians, and community groups became the recurring theme, which aroused the courage in our hearts. We took it as the Holy Spirit's affirmation. After service, we went up to Jim and Shirley, and Oliver also joined us. We found out that God had put the same zeal into all of our hearts. So, the decision was made quickly—let's start the Mandarin speaking community group.

Praise the Lord!

The first meeting took place the following Tuesday. We spent time getting to know each other, and finalized our curriculum that was translated into Chinese. Though our group is small, it's amazing to see that most of our members have had team leading experience before. At this starting stage, we can foresee the blessing and challenge along the way. We would appreciate your prayers.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

By Kim Griffin

Here's the story! Life happens, and sometimes, it is difficult to navigate on our own. During times of transition, we sometimes need someone to come alongside us to listen and to pray. It does not mean that

course. They have gone through 50 hours of training. At the end of this training, they will join the 13 previously trained individuals as part of our Stephen Ministry team. All of these people are prepared to confidentially meet

times and be vulnerable with each other, knowing that it was a confidential and God-centred environment. It was a real blessing. The format of the class, and Doug's leadership in the class, established a perfect example of how we are to come alongside others and how the ministry will look going forward.



The present group of Stephen Ministers is really excited to welcome this new group into our midst. We are all very passionate about this ministry and we welcome the opportunity to have more trained people in order to better serve those in our church and our community who are hurting. We can think of no better way to shine His light and to love like Jesus!

we are bad or weak Christians if we ask for help. It only means that we are looking for Christian compassion and understanding for a period of time.

For the past five months, Doug Thomson has led six people through a Stephen Ministry

with a person on a weekly basis for as long as needed.

I sat through this course and got to know these people in a way that is not really possible in any other context. We all have gone through some tough times and we were able to share these

TCC

By Terry Weatherly

TSAWWASSEN COMMUNITY CHURCH

It's been one year since our current team came together and assumed the leadership of SDBC's ministry at Tsawwassen First Nation. We are thankful for the opportunity we've been allowed at TFN and for the group that has come together to serve there; a group which extends beyond the leadership team and includes the people God has brought together to help us in building community as we meet every Sunday evening.

The past few months have brought reminders to us of the importance of fostering a sense of community through the music, message, and the meal we share each week. Two of our regular attendees have recently shared, in very personal and moving ways, the importance of TCC in helping them battle their addictions. One gentleman has been clean now for a number of years and has stated more than once that he wouldn't be where he is today without this "little church." Another regular was sitting around the table with some of our leaders following our mealtime, when he began to open up and share a very

emotional account of his recent success in overcoming some addictions. We were very touched to hear how important our weekly gathering is, as a support to him.

connection." We hope TCC will continue to be a place of connection and community going forward.

"The past few months have brought reminders to us of the importance of fostering a sense of community through the music, message, and the meal we share each week."

Social isolation is believed to be a significant factor in addictive behaviours. There is a human need to trust others and to emotionally attach with others. In fact, one author profoundly stated, "the opposite of addiction is not sobriety; the opposite of addiction is



GLOBAL MISSIONS

UTTAR PRADESH: BUILDING FOR FREEDOM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DALIT FREEDOM NETWORK

By Greg Hislop

SDBC has partnered with Village Church and Dalit Freedom Network Canada to build a Good Shepherd school in Uttar Pradesh, India, and to sponsor its Dalit (untouchable and outcast) students. Through an English medium education with the Christian worldview, these children can find hope and freedom from poverty and a lifetime of generational slavery.

Last October, we gathered together to share a piece of cake modelled after our school to celebrate the completion of phase 2 classroom construction, bringing our school to 10 classrooms. We continue to thank God for His hand and favour on this ministry and for the generosity of SDBC in supporting this work. This will provide enough classrooms for several years of growth.

At that time, our school manager, Marang, wrote: "We are thankful to you for your loving heart that you have shared with us. It has brought great changes in the lives of many children who can say

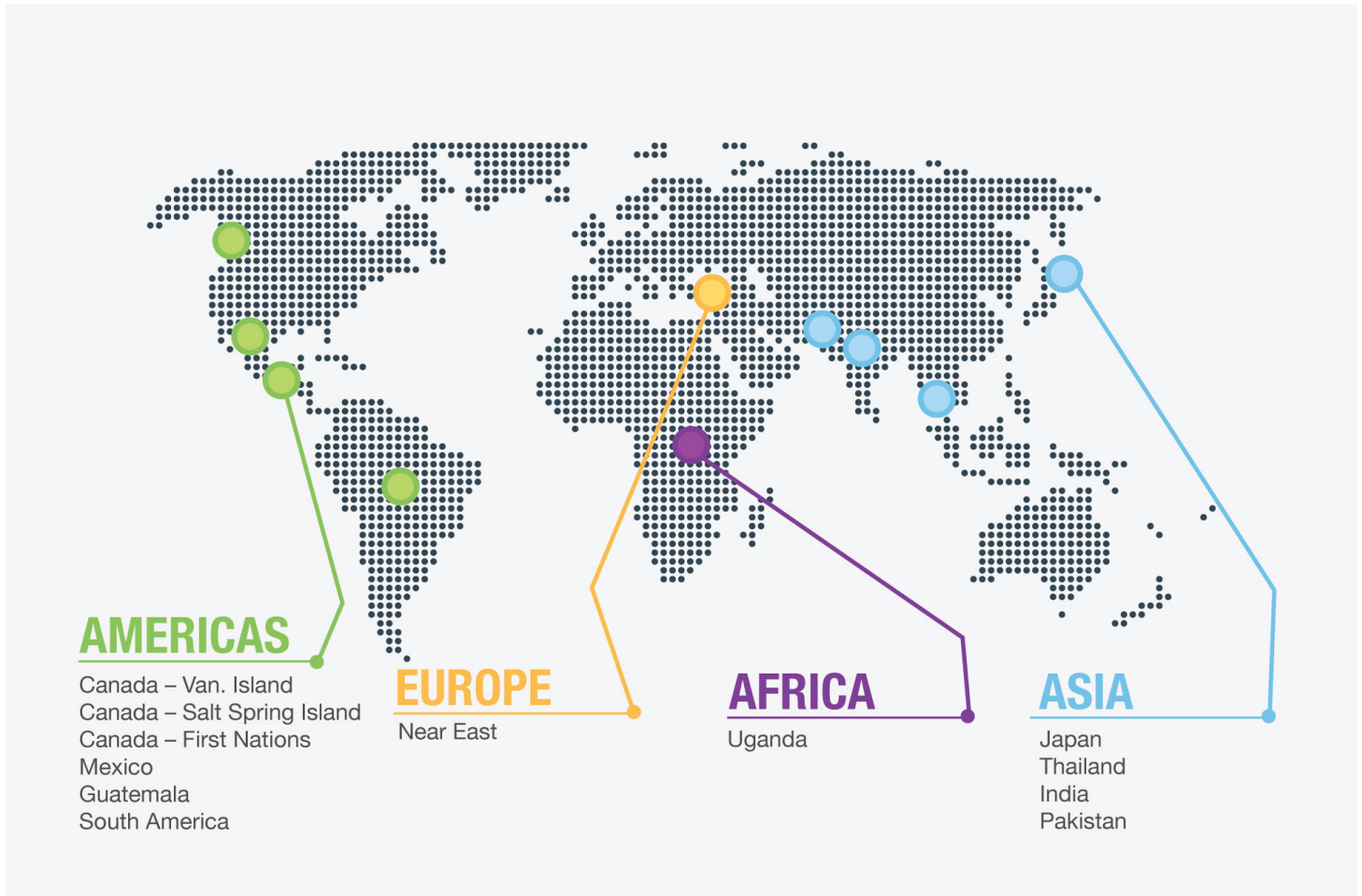
that we have a hope in the Lord. At present, we are having 273 students in the school to Class V. It is great to see the children growing in knowledge and having eternal hope in God that they will become somebody from nobody one day. Most of the students are from outcast or rejected people. Their parents are very happy to see their children talking in the international language: English. Loving greetings to all who have been praying and sharing gift donations and great thanks to SDBC for your love that makes us keep moving."



As a completed school goes to Class 10, it is our goal to complete classroom

construction in the months ahead. Know that our Good Shepherd school is bringing village transformation by bridging caste differences, providing a quality education, teaching basic hygiene, providing clean water, encouraging healthy recreation, and influencing the students and their families with the gospel. Through the dedication of the school manager and teachers, students are learning that Jesus loves them and cares for each person, regardless of caste.

GLOBAL MISSIONS



The Global Mission Team's (GMT) mandate is to oversee mission-supported activities of SDBC. This includes, long-term, mid-term, and short-term missions, and to recommend, in partnership with the Fellowship, funding relief and development projects. We exist to promote and facilitate missions and mission opportunities for all ages in our church.

This map illustrates areas in the world where our missionaries are located. Please be in prayer for those in the missions field.

If you are interested in being a part of, or supporting missions, please contact missions@southdelta.org

Rick Burdett, Phil Cox, Greg Hislop, Terry Weatherly

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

By Mary Uher

This past year has probably been the largest year of growth that I have ever experienced. It has been absolutely incredible. What is even more incredible is that God has not only chosen to grow me this year, but he has also chosen to grow and develop the entire SDBC worship team. We have been blessed with eight new members; both men and women from traditional and modern musical backgrounds. Being able to watch God move and work within this ministry has been an incredible privilege.

One of the most beautiful moments that I can remember from this past year was back in August, when we had our first ever worship team appreciation evening. God had really placed the importance of an event like this on my heart,

and so, with the help of an amazing team, we organized the event. It started as a simple dessert evening of fellowship, but through the planning process, God shaped this evening into a time of deep worship and understanding for all the styles of worship music that we create at South Delta Baptist Church. There was a time at the end of the evening where the traditional team stood up, explained one of their songs, taught it to us, and then led everyone in worship. After that, the modern team stood up and did the same. I will never forget that moment, standing there in a room of 60 worship leaders and worshippers, all singing "The Stand." We all stood, "with hearts abandoned, in awe of the

One who gave it all." That evening in August was beautiful in so many ways, and I truly believe that it led to many great things within the worship ministry of SDBC.

"...standing there in a room of 60 worship leaders and worshippers, all singing 'The Stand.' We all stood, 'with hearts abandoned, in awe of the One who gave it all.'"

God is breathing and moving in our ministries every minute of every day, and it is amazing to be used by a God who loves us so much. Through this last year, I learned about the patience that God has for me, the love and creativity that He has for the worship ministry, and just how much He can use willing servants to show His glory. The SDBC worship team is filled with willing servants, and I am so blessed to be a part of this ministry.

ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE

By Craig Kraft

"And I will give you pastors after my own heart,
who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."
Jeremiah 3:15

We celebrate the time we had with Paul Johnson as our pastor and we are thankful for the healthy condition in which he left us when he transitioned to his new church in Minnesota. We are blessed with a great pastoral team; well equipped to lead us through this time of transition.

In October of 2016, six months after the departure of Pastor Paul, the elder board formed a pastoral search team. The PST has been working through a four-stage process. The first stage was PREPARATION. This

stage focused on the development of a prayer movement in the church, the selection and preparation of a pastoral search team, and the identification of SDBC's values, purpose, and vision.

**"And I will give you
pastors after my own
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with knowledge and
understanding."
- Jeremiah 3:15**

We then moved to the DOCUMENTATION stage. In this second stage, we generated a pastoral search package. The package is posted on the SDBC website and consists of a position description and a wealth of information about our church and our community as an introduction to who we are and why someone should consider pastoral ministry in South Delta.

The third stage is the EXPLORATION stage. We are now distributing information to applicants

and receiving resumes. This is a busy time for our team as we meet consistently to follow up with applicants, do our own research and interviews, and communicate with various applicants as to where they stand in our process. The goal of this stage is to develop a short list of applicants for the elders to consider. From that short list, we will recommend a candidate.

The final stage will be ENGAGEMENT, when the congregation will meet the candidate and reach an agreement for the pastor to begin ministry here. Please remember to prepare for change, pray for our search team, and plan to be part of the process.

Love like Jesus

“love one another...By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” - John 13
