

Annual Report for 2016-2017
Assimilation and Spiritual Development Ministry
March 2017

My dear church family,

I want to praise the Lord for His faithfulness and for the opportunity He has given me to serve at Las Flores! I consider it an honor to work alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ as we press in and press on in ministry together.

This year in ministry has looked a little different for our staff. In terms of the assimilation ministry, because we were without a senior pastor, we were not able to offer classes to receive new members. However, we were able to take in Jessica Crittendan, as a membership transfer from the Nazarene church in Escondido. Without new members, our SHAPE ministry and discipleship ministry were less active than in years passed. Nonetheless, we did have one of our ladies, Iris Gray, complete One to One discipleship, and I had the opportunity to meet with four other individuals to discuss and review their Strengths and Spiritual Gifts.

Even though it seemed as if we had hit the pause button on these two ministries, we remained faithful to our assimilation process and warmly welcomed, followed up with, and connected people who were new to Las Flores into the life of our wonderful church even if it wasn't through the means of church membership.

At the beginning of our church year, I led our staff in some discussions on Strengths and personality traits. I believe that our initial dialogue on these subjects has been beneficial to our team in terms of our understanding of one another and working together in a cohesive and effective way.

In addition to our conversations on team enhancement, I also facilitated several discussions with our staff about the life of our church and how we help our attenders feel loved and cared for. As a result of our dialogue, I now send out a weekly email to our staff and ministry leaders with a list of people who were missing from our Sunday worship. We use this list to remind us to reach out and pray for our people. Another result of our dialogue is that weekly I make sure that our entire staff is aware of the prayer requests that come to us on Sundays through the Connection card. As a staff, we faithfully pray over and respond to these requests.

While some of my tasks from passed years have been on hold, the Lord has had plenty of meaningful work that He has wanted me to do, including working closely with our Administrative Assistant, Cathy Cook. Weekly the staff discusses upcoming announcements for the bulletin and Cathy and I work together on the bulletin contents. I am so thankful for Cathy's creative talent. She and I work together really well, especially when we have Starbuck's coffee close at hand.

During this last year, I was able to complete a counseling course through the American Christian Counselors Association and Liberty University. This education helps me as a pastor in very real and practical ways as God gives me the opportunity to counsel others. Closely related to the counseling opportunities that God brings my way, are the opportunities to pray with people who come to the office. I think that some of my most rewarding times of ministry come when someone asks me to pray with and for them and then together we see how God miraculously answers our prayers.

I began my report with a praise and that is the way I would like to conclude it as well. I praise God for the way that He has faithfully equipped me for each and every task that He has required of me this last year, whether it was directly related to assimilation and spiritual development or not. I am feeling excited and encouraged about the future of our church, as well as an anticipation of what God has in store for the ministries to which I've been called. I pray that you are sensing and experiencing the same excitement and anticipation of great days ahead.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Janis