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Foothills 2.0 - Upgrade

Intro: Can you imagine what life would be like if things didn't improve ...upgrade over the years? (Slides of cars / phones / TVs / clothing styles / dancing / computer / washing machine) Life moves forward. It's constantly changing, seeking ways to improve quality, performance, efficiency. Technology is a prime example. Just when we got used to whatever the 1.0 version was, they came out with 2.0 version. They upgraded. Technology is constantly upgrading at such a frantic pace it's hard to stay up with it all.

As we enter another ministry year at Foothills, God is calling us to upgrade. (Grow) He is calling us to the 2.0 version of the vision. The 1.0 version has been in place for 10 years. Now, He is saying to us..."It's time for an upgrade!" It's time to grow! It's time for Foothills 2.0!

Unless we are willing to upgrade, we will miss what God has in store for us. The only way for us to "Take Hold" of our destiny is to keep upgrading. What does a Foothills upgrade look like?

Key passage: *Phil. 3:12-14* "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

*Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**"*

Vs. 12 – Last years theme about "taking hold" of the reason Jesus took hold of us = destiny / purpose. We have a responsibility to embrace what He has for us. (Explain banner)

Vs 13-14 describe the next step for us at Foothills. The upgrade for 2008-09. There are three key attitudes we must embrace this year.

1. Forgetting what is behind...the past (Don't allow the last 10 years of growth to be a barrier to moving forward. We are NOT Done! Don't allow your past to be an excuse to go where God is calling you!)
2. Looking forward to what lies ahead (Stay focused on the vision / why we exist / the destiny that God has for us. Pioneers NOT Settlers – Battleship NOT Cruise Ship)
3. Pressing on to reach the finish line / the prize (Pressing on implies hard work / sacrifice / being uncomfortable / commitment. It's NOT passive! We are in this thing for success not just to be running!)

I believe God would have us apply these 3 attitudes in 4 key areas of growth this year at Foothills. This is what Foothills 2.0 should look like. This is how God is calling us to upgrade.

I. Upgrade Our Commitment To Spiritual Growth / 2.0 Growth

Eph. 4:13-14 “This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children...” (NLT)

Visual: Package of Huggies – Diapers – This stage of life is fun...but temporary! So it should be spiritually as well. We must grow up!

A. Don’t settle for last year’s spiritual growth (forget the past)

1. Refuse to stagnate spiritually. Don’t be satisfied with 1.0 spirituality any longer. Reject the “good enough” mentality. I’m just going to spiritually coast.
2. Stop comparing yourself with others. “At least I’m not as bad as some people.” Others are not the standard...Jesus is !

B. Anticipate this year’s spiritual growth (looking forward)

1. Stay focused on the fact that God’s desire for you is spiritual maturity. Don’t lose sight of that. This is His will for your life (looking forward)
2. Remember when you were young and you couldn’t wait to grow up? I couldn’t wait to be older. Of course now I know that adulthood is completely over-rated.
3. Spiritual maturity though is NOT over-rated. It is something to look forward to. There are tremendous benefits for growing up spiritually. (presence and power)

C. We must press on to reach maturity

1. Give effort to this pursuit. It will require commitment on our part. It doesn’t happen by osmosis. We must give ourselves to it.
2. We have a responsibility to cooperate with God’s work in us. We cannot be a church that is a mile wide and an inch deep. Where God is taking us will require maturity. More of the vision will require more maturity.
3. Will you embrace a 2.0 commitment to your spiritual growth and development this year? (TNT / Home group / Reading God’s word / Learn how to feed yourself /

Song: Surrender – Will you surrender to God’s growth process in your life?

II. Upgrade Our Commitment To Serve / 2.0 Serving

Eph. 4:16 “He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” (NLT)

Visual: hand tool Vs power tool – screw driver Vs power drill – I can get a certain amount of work done with this (small projects) BUT, I can get a lot more done with this (big projects) God has called us to a big project folks. Time to upgrade the serving.

A. Don’t settle for last year’s ministry commitment (forget the past)

1. Don’t allow last year’s serving be the extent of your ministry growth and development. If you served last year and are currently serving...THANK YOU!

- But can you embrace that God may want to do more through you this year?
- Maybe it's a new assignment / maybe a new way to do your old job / Don't just embrace business as usual. Forget the past!
2. OR, don't allow a past bad experience keep you from serving. "Well, I tried doing something before and I got hurt...it was a bad experience. It's time to leave the past. What is God asking you to be involved with this year?"
 3. Refuse to a spectator any longer. Decide to get in the game!
- B. Anticipate how God wants to use you this year (Look forward)
1. Serving is your destiny. You've been saved / called / gifted for it. Don't just see yourself as you are now. Believe that God is molding you into more to be used in the future.
 2. For some of you, it's a first time involvement. You've never served before. Now is your time! There are opportunities everywhere! **Explain.**
 3. For those already serving, can you anticipate how God may want to expanded your ministry / use you to mentor others / expand recruiting others into your ministry/) It's time to believe you are chasing a vision NOT plugging a hole!
- C. We must press on and make the sacrifice to serve.
1. Ministry will require us to press on to reach where God is taking us. There is effort that must be invested. We must quit looking for comfort and start looking for our calling. Discover it!
 2. Will you embrace 2.0 serving this year? If you're currently involved, will you ask God if He may want to change your role / your influence / expand your ministry? Doesn't necessarily mean more time, but it may mean a new focus.
 3. If you're not involved, will you decide to serve somewhere? To get where God is taking us, we simply need more people sharing the responsibility.

Song: Lifesong

III. Upgrade Our Commitment To Live By Faith / 2.0 Faith

Heb. 11:6 "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him" (NLT)

Visual: Climbing Harness (picture of vacation) Trust the harness / rope / one holding the rope. God wants us to get in the harness of faith for Him. The vision requires risk...BUT He's holding the rope!

- A. Don't settle for last year's faith
1. Why? Because last year's faith will not get the job done this year. 1.0 Faith is not strong enough for the journey where God is taking us. Forget it – don't take that level of faith into the future. It will not risk enough!
 2. 1.0 faith got us into this building. But where God is taking us is beyond this building. God is going to ask us to trust Him for much more than this! How can

- we reach 1000s of people in this building?
3. No matter where you believe your faith / trust is at with God, it won't take us to our destiny. Don't settle for last year's faith.
- B. Anticipate what 2.0 Faith could do (Look forward)
1. The Bible tells us that Faith is what pleases God. Increasing our trust / faith is His plan for our lives. He doesn't want it stagnate. If a mustard seed's worth of faith can move mountains, then let's look forward to that kind of faith. – pray for it.
 2. We have to start thinking bigger. Our thinking and faith must start matching the vision God is calling us to. We have to stop thinking like a small church and start thinking and believing like a church that is called to reach 1000s of people.
 3. If you really trusted God and knew you wouldn't fail, what would you attempt for God? Can you let yourself have faith dreams?
- C. We must press on living by faith
1. 2.0 Faith is willing to take risks in order to follow Jesus. It refuses to play it safe all the time. Refuses to embrace comfort over calling. It's willing to (press on to reach) our destiny, embracing the hardships that are part of the journey.
 2. What does 2.0 faith look like for you? Where is God calling you to press on living by faith? Where is He asking you to trust Him with some new ventures?
 - New / first time areas of serving / finances - giving / relationships / creative ways to reach out to the community. / supportive of the scope and calling of the church.
 - Will you be willing to ask God for more faith?
 3. How is God asking us as a church body to trust Him with new pieces of the vision? What does expansion look like to God? How big of a place will we need to fulfill our calling?
Will you embrace 2.0 faith? Will you ask for it? Will you walk in the harness with Jesus this year? WHY? Because He will NEVER let go!

Song: You Never Let Go

IV. Upgraded Our Commitment To The Mission / 2.0 Mission

Matt. 28:18-19 "Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations..." (NLT)

The mission refers to our commitment to make disciples here at home and abroad. We are here to reach people for Jesus Christ. We must be Great Commission people! We must have a great commitment to the Great Commission.

Visual: Cruise ship OR a Battle ship (slide)

- A. Don't settle for last year's results
1. Our previous commitment to reach people in our geographic area is no longer sufficient. Our expectations and involvement in our community must change. We

- must (forget about) our previous level and refuse to rest on past successes.
- 2. We saw God do great things last year in people's lives. We saw over 50 people pray to receive Christ, around 50 people baptized / this doesn't include the scores of kids that accepted Christ in Guatemala this year.
- 3. But that was last year! Rejoice yes...satisfied NO!

B. Anticipate what 2.0 Mission looks like. (Look forward NOT back!)

- 1. We must look forward to new ways to connect with our community. New ways To serve them / bless them / meet their needs / creatively communicate the Gospel. 28,000 unchurched people within 10 miles.
- 2. We need to think how to make inroads into the various aspects of our community representing Christ looking for opportunities (schools / business / local government / civic organizations / friends and neighbors, etc...)
- 3. Brainstorm new ministries that would meet needs and reach out to people that we are currently missing. "How can we connect with more people?" "How can we meet more needs?" These are the questions 2.0 Mission will ask. It compels us to ask these questions and look ahead.

C. We must press on reaching people for Christ.

- 1. 2.0 Mission will require some hard work. It will not be accomplished by only a select few, but only as the entire church decides to be Great Commission people.
 - This is why we're developing a Saturday night service.
- 2. We are all must be willing to press on to reach people for Christ. We all must come to believe the hard work is worth it. This will include rubbing shoulders with the unchurched / inviting people / investing time to serve them / moving beyond the belief that church is all about me and embracing your role as an Ambassador for Jesus.
- 3. 2.0 Mission means that every one of us is active in bringing people to Christ. It's not all up to the pastor...it's up to you as well. 2.0 Mission means that every person embraces this call from God and not from Pastor Dale (Explain) Imagine what would happen if each one of you decided to let God use you to reach one person this year. If you decided to have a great commitment to the great commission? Will you?

Will you allow God to bring an upgrade to your involvement in His Great Mission? Will you own it?

Song: He Saved Us To Show His Glory

This is what Foothills 2.0 looks like. This is where Jesus is calling us to go. This is how we can continue to take hold of our destiny as a church. Will you embrace the upgrade? Can we walk into this new ministry year embracing Foothills 2.0? If you will, would you mark on your card today 2.0.

- To help with this we have created several reminders for you...
 1. In your bulletin there is a Foothills 2.0 Card
 2. You can go to our website and down load Foothills 2.0 for your desktop.
 3. We also have a window sticker for you. It's our website. **WHY?** Statistics show that over 80% of new people will go to a churches web site **FIRST!**

Stand together and pray (hold hands)