



THE DOVERCOURT DISCLOSURE

A regular update from the Elders of Dovercourt Baptist Church

Issue # 6
April 2007

DBC Website

The new DBC Website is now up and running. The URL is www.dovercourtbaptist.org and the site has many useful resources including a monthly calendar, photos of recent events, MP3 audio sermons, and much more. If you have any suggestions for improvements, you can submit them to us through the "Contact Us" page of the site.

Lobby Café

Plans to build a café in the church lobby have been temporarily put on hold by the NHT Board of Directors. This is not to say it has been permanently rejected, but for now, the project has been placed on the back burner.

Table Talk Meetings

In the next several months, the Elders will be meeting with small groups of the membership in order to receive personal feedback and to present some ideas about the direction we would like to take as a church. The meetings will consist of a light lunch and then some informal discussions. If you are contacted, please do your best to attend.

KICK-Start Coordinator

Our Sunday morning children's program at DBC is called KICK-Start. This past year, Lynda Wilson served as the coordinator for KICK-Start and has done a wonderful job. In 2007, Lynda decided to step down for health reasons, but will still continue as a KICK-Start teacher. Cathy Noble has now agreed to fill her shoes in this vital role. We would like to thank both Lynda and Cathy for their hard work and selfless service to our Lord in this capacity. Please remember them in your prayers, along with all the teachers and helpers in the KICK-Start ministry.

First Wednesday Prayer and Fasting

The first Wednesday of each month has been designated "First Wednesday Prayer & Fasting." On this evening we meet as a congregation to pray for our church and its many needs. We encourage all members and adherents to make a diligent effort to attend this one Wednesday a month, even if you are not able to attend Prayer Meeting regularly.

DBC Strengths and Weaknesses

At the Annual Meeting on February 18, the Elders presented to the congregation a list of strengths and weaknesses. This list consisted of what we believe are our top five strengths and our top five weaknesses as a church. We certainly praise God for the strengths and we intend to do our best to build upon them, but we also want to address the weaknesses. In the months and years ahead, we will be attempting to address these areas of weakness in various ways. Please pray for Dovercourt as we work towards becoming the kind of church God wants us to be, and please consider what role you can play in this endeavor.

This list of strengths and weaknesses is provided on page two.

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Strengths

1. We have a Godly history and heritage

The church was begun by a group of people who wanted to fulfill the great commission by taking the gospel into an area where there was a need for a witness. They reached out and established a church. Over the years the church would continue to be faithful in its desire to make disciples of all nations as they committed themselves to reaching out into their surroundings, the city, and throughout the world. Today, God continues to use godly men and women who have a commitment to His Word as seen by their heart and passion to live for God's purposes in their lives.

2. We have a great location and facility

We are located at the crossroads of one of the city's busiest corners that is easily accessible to people from various parts of the city. Our facilities are well kept and well equipped to meet our needs and accommodate future growth.

3. We have a diverse congregation

Our congregation reflects the diversity that is found in our immediate community and in the city. We are a socially diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-generational congregation. This has enabled people from all walks of life to come into our church and feel welcome. As well, it opens the doors for a great mission field at our doorstep and beyond.

4. We have a committed core of people

There are a number of people who have been serving God faithfully in various capacities and sometimes in multiple areas at our church. They have a strong commitment to the Word and seeing people come to Christ.

5. God has blessed us with financial resources

We have available resources that can be realigned to accomplish our mission at home and abroad.

Weaknesses

1. A lack of corporate reliance upon prayer

Participation in corporate prayer is not seen as the driving and necessary force for what we want God to do in our midst. This shows itself in much activity but lack of fruit.

2. A lack of a Biblically functioning community

People are not willing to submit to the authority of Scripture, or do not have a proper understanding of Scripture in regards to what it means to be part of a biblically functioning community. Therefore they do not see the importance of taking time to fellowship together, the need to connect in meaningful ways, and the importance of dealing Biblically with conflicts and hurts. This has resulted in the lack of a sense of community and unity, unresolved conflicts and hurts, and people feeling that they are not cared for.

3. A lack of a clear sense of mission

People don't have a clear sense of what our mission is and what steps we are taking to fulfill God's will for us as a church. This has resulted in the lack of involvement and in the frustration of not seeing how people's roles are contributing to the overall goals of the church.

4. A lack of committed participants

There are a lot of people who come and go but don't see themselves as participating or contributing to the work that God has called us to do. This has resulted in some people being overburdened with ministry roles and ministry fatigue.

5. A lack of a clearly defined discipleship process

There is no strategy or evaluation process to determine a person's spiritual growth and to equip them to become fully devoted followers of Christ. This has resulted in our inability to celebrate what God is doing in our midst as we see and hear of life transformation, and to adequately plan for the appropriate growth and training opportunities.