

Emailed to Members of the Bay Area Christian Church 10/31/06

Hua <xxx> wrote: *(edited to delete email address)*
From: "Rich Hua" <xxx>
Subject: Email regarding Portland-supported "church planting" in Bay Area
Date: Tue, 31 Oct 2006 14:59:21 -0800

Dear Family and Friends of the Bay Area Christian Church,

God is moving in the Bay Area Christian Church like no other time in the last four years. It has been both exciting and encouraging to see everyone in our fellowship full of faith and the Spirit. Because things have been going so well, we weren't surprise when we heard news that Satan might be moving to distract us from our spiritual focus.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12

Several of you have spoken up over the last 24 hours about the email being sent to Christians in our church declaring the beginning of a new church in the Bay Area. These emails communicate that the Bay Area Christian Church (BACC) is not being condemned, but that those sending the email want to move in a different direction. They say that they want to be a part of a group of "sold out" disciples.

They closed the email by making it clear that they would do this with the support and guidance of the Portland Church of Christ.

After asking questions, we determined the following:

The people sending the emails are not members of our church.
The couple sending the emails have never been members.
The single man sending the emails fell away from our church.
A total of 3 people are behind this effort.

The support that these 3 people have received from the Portland Church of Christ is not unusual. The Portland Church of Christ has decided that anyone who does not join them in building their "new movement" is "lukewarm". We confirmed their support of anyone who wants to plant a church anywhere with one of their evangelists today. This is unfortunate since we have been one of the only churches in the world who have not publicly condemned them even though we don't agree with them. The only reason we are putting this information on record is because of these mass emails.

The potential for distraction can be great when dealing with things like this, so we will be brief.

Here in the BACC there is no danger of us being a lukewarm church. Anyone who has actually been a member knows this to be true. A simple review of the last several months will serve as a reminder for all of us.

Over 3,000 people gathered at the August 2006 Possibilities Conference and Expo where "Breakthrough" was the operative word. Everyone left there encouraged and determined that we will not let God's dream die.

The Possibilities Field Guide was released at the Expo and joined the New Testament Christian Handbook as evidence of our commitment to build a healthy and balanced church.

The BACC has supported mission work in India, and recently launched E-International to help those with special needs in Hong Kong, Taipei and Eastern Africa. This is possible because of the efforts made by many to build the outstanding E-Ministry and partnership with Hope Technology School.

The BACC has invested heavily in building up its ministry. We are currently 70% staffed by men and women between the ages of 19-30 because we believe that our mature Christians will remain strong and that we must see to it that we help our children become Christians.

The BACC has continued its effort to hold powerful and life changing congregational services with 3,000 to 4,000 people in attendance. This occurred at the Shoreline Amphitheatre service, August Conference and Expo, and as well as our annual Christmas service.

The BACC continued its annual basketball league with a new and innovative twist. This year we turned it into an open league in keeping with our desire to not merely build our church, but to contribute to the community as well. It was exciting to see over 120 new and incredible hoop players help improve our league as we try to build one of the best basketball leagues in Northern California

The BACC has never interrupted its mission to build a great women's ministry as we see over 3,000 women attend our annual Women's Day events. Our women's ministry has never been stronger nor has it ever had a brighter future when looking at the young women growing up in the church.

The BACC has published prolifically on the web with www.bacc.cc, and in print with the "Vision", "Inspirare", and "Brevis". Each of these have increased our communication and education of our fellowship substantially, and many more things are in the works.

The BACC has not slowed down in the Autumn as we have seen outstanding Bible Talks blossoming everywhere, and the campus ministry having a major victory with their "Heroes" retreat where they saw the power of the Word to change hearts in just a couple of days.

Even more astounding is that in the midst of all this we will be opening our new building in 2007. God has blessed us with a superb team of builders and architects who have guided us to what is clearly a victorious milestone in our church. This first building on the west bay will give us vision for the next one to be purchased on the east bay

We have done all this by making God's Kingdom our treasure. In our special contribution we have continued to give over one million dollars over the last four years while many others abandoned the

practice of sacrificial giving. The weekly contribution and needs contribution continues to be outstanding even during the years of a difficult Bay Area economy.

We are changing the world by building our church, and we cannot allow Satan to distract us. This November we will have the Professionals Retreat followed by the Middle School and Teen Parent Seminar. These will be followed by our annual Christmas celebration service where we will renew our vision and lay our plans for 2007.

Let's remain focused and visionary as God leads us to victory.

In Him,

The BACC Leadership Team