

Constant Comment @ FLCOG

A Weekly Florida Church of God Newsletter

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Around the State.....

Send us your news! We want to share the joy with others...send your article and pictures (jpg format please) to rebecca@flcog.org. Articles may be subject to editing.

Emily Kate Smith

Emily Smith, daughter of former White Chapel headmaster Sam Smith, passed away December 30, 2007. Our prayers are extended to the family during this time of loss. Since the Smiths have so many friends and family spread across the country, they have been using a blog to keep everyone informed.

[click here for their blog](#)

HighPoint Church: Rebirth, Regrowth, and Rejuvenation

Any parent will tell you that growth comes in spurts. Children don't grow from infancy to adolescence at a consistent rate. Growth comes in spurts not only with people but also with churches. This is evidenced perfectly by the story of HighPoint Church, formerly Burns Avenue Church of God, in Lake Wales, Florida.

Burns Avenue was started in 1972 by a group of people who felt called to establish a church presence in the community of Lake Wales proper. By 1996, attendance had dropped to less than 100, and the church considered the option of selling the property and merging with other local churches. In early 1997, however, Rev. Jack Hilligoss was called as the senior pastor. Recently, the name of the church was changed to HighPoint Church.

Pastor Hilligoss decided that if the church was to grow, it would have to refocus its efforts and energy. "Every church has at least one or two things they can do with excellence," Rev. Hilligoss states. "Sell out to those things and get rid of everything else. It is better to do one or two things with excellence than a dozen things with mediocrity.

The church has baptized more than 200 new believers. Currently, attendance averages 520 people, and the congregation anticipates building an 11,000-square-foot addition to the church in the near future.

Finally, HighPoint Church attributes its growth to four things:

- Offering worship and teaching that is excellent in quality and relevant in content.
- Ministering to children in a safe and exciting environment.
- Creating a simple process for people to learn about, and make a decision to follow, Christ and become a part of the church.
- Intentionally doing things that are a blessing to the community.

It has taken ten years of growth spurts for HighPoint Church to become what it is today—a growing and thriving congregation. Growth can happen. "Think about what a

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huge harvest would occur in the Church of God if all our churches that averaged less than 200 grew by just 10 percent each year. The growth would be unprecedented!"

Excerpts from "HighPoint Church: Rebirth, Regrowth, and Rejuvenation" by Susan Kane, Church Multiplication

Exponential '08 The DNA of Reproducing Churches

FLCOG Ministries has reserved 25 tickets for this conference at no cost! If you are interested in attending, please contact Fay at (407) 737-7633 or fay@flcog.org.

Speakers and Conference Themes:

Session #1 with Ed Stetzer: The Characteristics of Reproducing Churches

Session #2 with Andy Stanley: Apostolic Vision

Session #3a with Steve Andrews: Radical Disciple Making

Session #3b with Dave Ferguson: Genuine Community

Session #4 with Alan Hirsch: Missional Movement

Session #5 with Tim Keller: The Gospel

[More on Exponential Conference](#)

Intercessory Prayer Time

A group of us gather weekly on Thursdays @ the FLCOG Ministries Resource Center for a time of prayer for our pastors and churches. If you are interested in joining us for this time, we will begin @ 9AM and go until 10AM. If you have specific prayer requests for your church or pastor, please email those to prayer@flcog.org.

Join us this week wherever you are as we pray for the following "churches of the week":

**15th Avenue Ft. Lauderdale
Church of God Christian Center Ft. Lauderdale
Community Church Ft. Lauderdale**

Expelled Movie Premiere

Expelled, a new movie starring Ben Stein, is hosting a premiere at **Trinity Church of God in Boca Raton Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 pm**. Trinity Church of God is located at 1251 SW 15th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33486. For more information please call Trinity Church of God at (561) 392-5433.

[see the movie trailer here](#)

Calendar of Events

Check out the FLCOG website at www.flcog.org for upcoming events....

Have a wonderful God-filled week!

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