

# Persevering in Ministry

*By Pastor Jim Glazier, Atwater Community Church*



My wife and I have officially pastored at Atwater since January 2007. It was a small congregation of about 8 core people on average. The only real hope we had was that we, beyond any shadow of a doubt knew that God had not only called us here but called us here with a purpose and mission. When you know that God's called you and His hand is on you, there is a confidence that He will empower you to handle any situation that arises. Let me tell you... we have had some situations!

We started our first service without singers or musicians, as they had walked out because they did not want change. I went two and a half years with no salary. And the list goes on: no space, a 2400 square foot building that includes the kitchen and two baths. No sound and video equipment, etc.

This Church has had constant change since I have been here and people resist change, resulting in membership loss. Turnover can be overwhelming.

I have come to the conclusion that there will always be problems. As pastors we have a higher calling and I believe a higher empowerment if we make the choice to operate in this empowerment. I believe to do this we must first know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the One who called us to our church is also the One who sees all and knows all.

We as pastors must learn to persevere in ministry, to thrive under pressure. After all we are the leaders of Christ's church. When people look at us and know that despite all the chaos that is going on, we are still standing strong, it is a great encouragement to them.

A strong prayer life is a most essential spiritual discipline if we are to overcome and persevere in ministry. I have stepped up my prayer life in full assurance of my call to this specific ministry and now am beginning to thrive.

My wife and I could have very easily quit in those earlier years but we hung on to the fact that we knew God called us, and He has not released us. God provided a support team from FLCOG. It pains me to think what we would have missed if we had quit. I just think of all the people this ministry has impacted, even some who chose to walk away have come back to me in disbelief.

I can't wait to have that opening service in a new building. And I will invite everyone who ever played a part in this ministry. I believe that God planted each one to do some part to grow me and this church.

By the way we still have very little money and very little space...But God has a plan!