

Hello Orange Cove Church Family & Friends of Orange Cove,

Pastor's Weekly Letter: March 8, 2017 – "Divine Mathematics"

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Happy Friday, March 8, 2017. Here are the **PowerAds** for Orange Cove Church for this coming week:

- This coming Sabbath Pastor André will share the morning message, "Finishing God's Work, Part 5."
- This coming Sabbath is an Outreach Sabbath. We have narrowed down a few low income neighborhoods to adopt and there is more excited possibilities for outreach.

This Week's Devotional – "Divine Mathematics"

Have you ever got stuck trying to figure out a mathematical equation? Something like calculating the distance to the closest star and back and how much oxygen it would take to keep a person alive on the journey. Or, calculate how many non-Christians there are in the world and how many evangelists would it take to teach them about Jesus? These are complicated calculations. Nevertheless, we might fail at our human attempts to calculate complicated numbers, but we can turn to Divine Mathematics to alleviate our stress.

What is Divine Mathematics? When God's Power is mixed into human calculations, human minds fail to fathom the answers. In other words, when it comes to finding solutions to insurmountable equations, God has a miraculous way of solving them. A classic example of God's Divine Mathematics at work, in the Old Testament, is the story of Gideon. The Midianites outnumber the Israelites probably by 1000 to 1. The bible says the Midianites were "*as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.*" (Judges 7:12).

So God comes to Gideon and commissions him to go conquer the Midianites. Gideon is reluctant because he knows how the numbers compare between Israel and Midian. God tells him to call together all the valiant men from Israel who will go and fight. So 32,000 men come together to fight the Midianites. They are still greatly outnumbered. God tells Gideon that there are too many Israelites and has Gideon tell the men that whoever is afraid or nervous should go home. So 22,000 leave. Gideon is left with 10,000 men. His force is now greatly outnumbered.

What is God doing, Gideon must have thought to himself. God again tells Gideon that He has too many men. He tells Gideon to have the men drink from the river. Those who go down on all fours and drink are to be sent home, but those who scooped up water in their hands, still alert for battle, were to stay. So, Gideon is left with only 300 men. We remember the miraculous outcome—God routes the who Midianite army with only 300 men.

Isn't that the kind of mathematical equation that is needed for the finishing of God's work here on earth? Oh yes! We need Divine Mathematics to be able to reach the billions of people who haven't heard the good news of their loving Heavenly Father who is doing all He can to save them in His Kingdom. The classic New Testament example of how God's Mathematics works, was when one man, Peter, preached a sermon and three thousand people were converted in just one day.

So how will 69% of the world's population, 4.7 billion people, come to know about the Lord Jesus Christ so that His work on earth can be completed? Well, if 1,566,666 Christians each reached 3,000 people in one day, like Peter did, the world would be reached for Christ and His work would be finished. If 30,128 Christians each reached 3,000 people for Christ every day for a week, His work would be finished. If 4292 Christians each reached 3,000 people for Christ everyday for one year, the world's population would be reached for Christ.

So, if God used Peter to reach so many people in one day, can he use each of us? Maybe reaching 3,000 people seems impossible, but perhaps we can reach just one person. If that one person just reached one person and the person they reached, just reached one person, the world would soon be reached for Christ. That's how multi-level marketing works—every person just reaching out to a few people in their sphere of influence.

Jesus only chose 12 disciples, but those 12 reached thousands and the thousands they reached in turn reached tens of thousands. The tens of thousands in turn, reached millions.