

1999

# WHY I JOINED THIS CHURCH

© Darry D Eggleston, 813.677.2871, [DarryD@darryd.com](mailto:DarryD@darryd.com)

Click on any blue, underlined text to go to its linked reference.



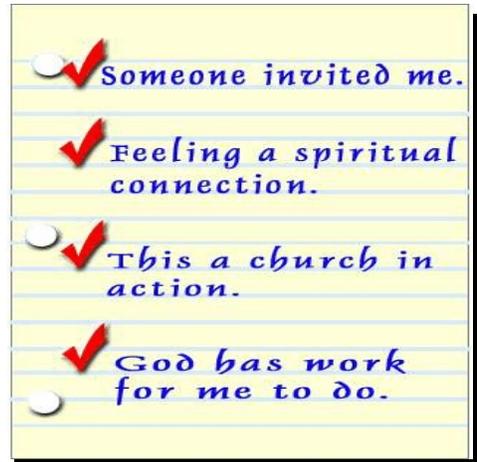
I joined for four reasons:

## 1. SOMEONE INVITED ME.

As an Adult Education teacher at a local high school, I taught over 200 senior citizens from Sun City Center and Riverview. Only one, Mel Benham, invited me to visit his church.

My wife, Peggy, and I liked what we saw and felt.

Advertisements don't gain members; members do. Our ministers can't reach those who never enter our portals. They don't know our friends; only we do.



## 2. A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION.

Here we felt a Bible-based, spiritual ministry. We discovered a pastoral staff which meets the needs of its church family. From visitations to counseling, our ministers are there when needed. They recognize that a church is not bricks and mortar but flesh and blood; not a building but a family.

Our office staff is a possibilities-empowered team. They work to make you welcome. No question is too trivial. No request goes un-searched. Christians serving Christians is their daily norm.

Our people are our power. They are loving and giving.

Members of our Women's Fellowship give unsolicited hugs; they refuse to let people feel badly. (When your frown reaches your chin, you desperately need someone to hug you. )

---

<sup>1</sup> Editors: Peggy S. Eggleston, Dick Evans & Parker Monroe. Permission for reproduction in whole or in part is granted to individuals and to organizations for internal, non-profit use provided credit is given to the author along with the copyright notice: Article reprinted with permission. Copyright © 2008 Darry D Eggleston, <http://DarryD.com>.

Visitors to our church are warmly greeted. Our members offer genuine assistance whether it's a phone number to call or a place to visit. "A stranger is a friend you haven't met yet."

Our prayers for understanding are measured not by the sincerity with which they are spoken but by the strength we can array to achieve them.

Coffee and conversation every Sunday permits meeting old and new friends alike. Not many other churches meet that social challenge, one of balancing the need for people to converse and to be included in the larger whole of the church family.

### **3. A CHURCH IN ACTION.**

Our Savior gave us a clear mission. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. " (Matthew 28:18-20) Other churches talk about helping others; this church does it. We provide a free pamphlet called "Helping Hands" which lists services offered throughout our community for people dealing with depression, diseases, and hardships.

We aid low-income families, providing a safe haven from which to build their futures. We support local organizations that serve the poor and the misfortunate. When there is a need, our congregation responds.

Other churches talk; our Church acts.

"The future doesn't just happen. We, by our collective endeavors, create the future." Our God empowered us to make decisions, to react to changes, and to formulate plans for progress. Christians are not predestined; they are developers. We are not cogs in an unguided wheel of uncontrollable events; they are achievers of the possible.

Our church has a Long Range Planning Committee. Its task is to "is to act as a "Think-Tank" in developing a vision for the Church-of-tomorrow and to identify the challenges, course of action, and resources to attain that vision." Its members are the voices of vision to our Church Council.

Our Sunday School offers courses to aid all members to learn new skills, maintain proficiency, and expand their acquaintances in learning what the Bible offers us. It is a center of learning in a center of need.

I want to contribute to these acts of Christian love.

## 4. GOD HAS WORK FOR ME TO DO.

What will they say when you lay to rest?

For me, the simple expression, “He was a Christian who made a difference,” would be praise enough. I want to do that which I can to aid others in meeting the man called Christ.

We are challenged to turn our fear into love, our love into obedience, and our obedience into service to God’s people. I am committed to serve because my Savior instructs it. **WHY ARE YOU HERE?**

I joined this church because this church epitomizes those Christian values I hold so dear.

I am working to achieve the Great Commission our Savior gave us. This church family is the vehicle for that achievement.

*Why did you join your church?*