

Hi Richard:

I uploading a bunch of pictures and a video to the ABCOPAD website today. Below is a summary of our Outflow Experience.

Please express our church's thanks to Frank, and the ABCOPAD leadership for the materials and their vision to see this happen in our churches! We are looking forward to more Outflow experiences!

Our first experience with outflow went very well. Here are some highlights of our experience.

1. Overview of Outflow:

Our goals for Outflow were based upon our theme verse Romans 15:13 ("May the God of hope fill you will all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

II That God would *change* us: "May...God... *fill* us..."

II That God would *use us*: "so that we may *overflow*..."

The timeline for the event:

- 5 weeks of preparation (June 6- July 4) – prayer, organizing meetings, Sunday School lessons, Sermon teaching/preparation
- 2 hours of "outreach" on the evening of July 4th (distributing "glow bracelets" and "connect cards" along Route 287 before the *Fireworks*)
- 1 week of Celebration with a special worship service (testimonies), picnic and Christian concert

2. **PARTICIPATION:** We witnessed a strong involvement from a cross-section of people in the church—for church with an average attendance of about 110, we had over 40 people demonstrate their willingness to participate in some way:

- a. 21 people signed up for our prayer team. Up to 10 people came out for a prayer meeting on one particular Sunday morning and up to 5 people went on a prayer-walk before the event.
- b. 18 people participated on our connect teams—9 adults and 9 youth.
- c. 5 people worked on the Celebration event planning the picnic meal.
- d. 5 people from our worship band put on a concert after the picnic.

3. **TESTIMONIES:** There was a buzz in the church and several openly showed their enthusiasm in a number of ways. Here are some examples:

- a. A few people were updating their facebook status to reflect their enthusiasm. One young women talked about how God was helping her to reach out to her sister-in-law and asked for people to pray that her love would "overflow" toward her. Another young lady who just started coming to our church a few months earlier posted to her account after the first week's message: "I am overflowing with hope." When one of her friends asked, what's up with her post, she responded by quoting Romans 15:13!
- b. Another person shared how her 20-something daughter (who lives out of town but was visiting with her mom at church on the fourth week) asked her, "Mom, that sounds like a great book, can you get *Outflow* for me?" Her Mom was thrilled because her daughter had not shown this kind of interest in a Christian book in some time.
- c. After the outreach, there was overwhelming enthusiasm from the members of the Connect Team. Many of them were saying things like: "That was great!" and "Everyone

was friendly to us..." or "When we do this *again...*" A few team members updated their facebook status sharing with their friends about the great time they had!

- d. A Pastor friend of mine interacted with a facebook post of mine: "My kids loved the glow bracelets! Your teams did a good job, what a great idea!"
 - e. On the sixth week (our Celebration week), in my sermon I shared the overall experience of the church and summarized what I believed God was doing as a result of *Outflow*. In addition, five adults members of the Connect Teams shared their experiences. (video uploaded)
4. **HARVEST:** Although I prepared the church not be overly expectant to see immediate results, we were *thrilled* to see a family come to church the very next Sunday. The family was looking to get back to church after being out of church for several years and praise God they checked us out as a result of our Outflow invitation! Mom and two children came to church and stayed for the picnic and concert afterward. The mom sent me an email of her experience at our church: "We had a wonderful time yesterday at church, the picnic and concert. The kids were so happy and felt so welcomed by your daughters and the other children as did I by many members of the church."

In Christ,
Alex

Pastor, Middlebury Baptist Church
"Loving, Reaching & Teaching Our Community for Christ"
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