

## Cultivating Community

“Charting the Course for 2007 and Beyond”

**Summary:** This sermon will help each person get a better perspective on where God is leading Cicero Christian Church for 2007 and beyond as we rely on Him to chart the course of our lives. This will be a “*Rebuilding Year*” for Cicero Christian Church as we build the church on the foundation of God’s Word, God’s Passion, and God’s Vision for Cicero Christian Church. We will explore seven elements needed for rebuilding the church God’s way.

**Proverbs 3:5-8** – <sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup>Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. <sup>8</sup>This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

### Seven Elements of Rebuilding

#### Element #1 – Fast and Pray

- **2 Chronicles 7:14**
- **Key Point:** Fasting is about Relationship
- This first element will draw our attention to the important role that prayer and fasting has in helping us maintain our focus upon developing the proper relationship with God in order to better understand His will and direction for our lives in 2007 and beyond.

#### Element #2 – Assess the Situation

- **Nehemiah 1:5-9**
- The second element will focus our attention on examining the highlights, strengths and weaknesses, of 2006.

#### Element #3 – Fast and Pray

- Fasting is about Humility
- **2 Chronicles 7:14**
- The third element will draw our attention to the important role that prayer and fasting has in humbling ourselves before the eternal Judge in 2007 and beyond.

#### Element #4 – Set the Vision

- **Mt. 22:34-40**
- **Mt. 28:18-20**
- The fourth element will present the vision for 2007 and beyond as we learn more about “*Cultivating Community with God, One Another, and our Neighborhood.*”

**Element #5 – Fast and Pray**

- Fasting is about Repentance
- **2 Chronicles 7:14**
- The fifth element will draw our attention to the important role that prayer and fasting has in helping us come to the Creator in complete repentance in 2007 and beyond.

**Element #6 – Set the Goals**

- **Jeremiah 29:11-13** – <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
- The sixth element will discuss the top three goals that we will be pursuing as a church in 2007.

**Element #7 – Fast and Pray**

- Fasting is about Restoration
- **2 Chronicles 7:14**
- This seventh element will draw our attention to the important role that prayer and fasting has in helping us restore our relationship with our Heavenly Father in 2007 and beyond.

**Application**

This week challenge your friends and family to join with you as you pray for Cicero Christian Church to accomplish God’s will for 2007. Pray for endurance, strength, and boldness to be given to the leadership, ministers, staff, and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as we serve God this year.

**Questions to Consider**

1. What are the talents that I will use to glorify God in 2007?
2. How will I be able to strengthen my church, my family, and my community through prayer fasting during 2007?
3. What are my top three goals that I desire to accomplish for God in 2007?

**Memory Verse:**

**Deuteronomy 6:5-6** – Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

