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The Coastlands
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WE MIGHT HAVE A PLACE IN YOUR LIFE

Part I: Why *Church*, Anyway?

Colossians 1:25-29

- (1) *Church* makes the most sense when viewed in the whole context of God's purpose and kingdom.
- (2) The local *church* is much more than a building or a Sunday morning worship service. It is a vital part of the whole growth and development process in your spiritual life.
- (3) Every *church* is unique. God gives each church a special collection of people and purposes.
- (4) The whole point of *church* is to make Jesus more meaningful and significant in people's lives: helping those who already know Him become more like Him; and, introducing Him to people who aren't yet aware of His love for them.
- (5) God has always dealt with people both *directly* and *indirectly* through His dealings with whole groups. *Church* provides additional confirmation, direction and instruction in your personal search for His will for your life.
- (6) *Church* is an ongoing setting God places you in so that you can personally receive from *and* give to others.

- (7) Feelings of guilt and rejection cripple ministry. *Church* provides a sense of belonging. Being accepted by a group and being honestly accountable to them will defeat most lies in your life.
- (8) Not only can you be part of *church*, but you can watch God add others to you. You will be encouraged not just by conversions, but by the transformations you witness in other people.
- (9) The early *church* knew the importance of devoting themselves to prayer, teaching *and fellowship*. Church is the proving grounds for your spirituality.
- (10) *Church* is more than the sum of its parts. Not only can you share in the larger joy and accomplishments of the whole congregation, but even the individual part you play has more significance than it would on its own.

As a particular local church in Santa Cruz County, we have several unique aspects which we will discuss over the next few weeks. Again, the point is not to promote ourselves, but to help you determine with more certainty whether or not The Coastlands is supposed to have a place in your life.

Perhaps a good transition from the benefits of *church* in general, to the traits of our *church* in particular, would be to share a very definite awareness we have.

- (11) Everything we do as a *church*, we try to remember that we do:
 - a. Under obligation
 - b. By invitation
 - c. With determination