

## **WORD OF GRACE LUTHERAN MISSION**

### **Rohnert Park, CA – Circuit 14**

The “spark” that ignited this mission was Rev. Jeff Mueller, pastor at that time of Vineyard of Faith, Windsor, CA, who had the vision to call a Missionary-At- Large to plant a new congregation in Rohnert Park, CA. The mission has been in existence for about 4 years. We are just emerging from the “prenatal” stage and are now a newly birthed “infant”.

The financial and spiritual support of our District and our two partner churches in Circuit 14, Vineyard of Faith and St. Marks have been our greatest support. Beyond those who were of immediate support, the greatest resource has been the mature, stable already Christian people our Lord has given to our mission to be leaders. We value God’s people and the gifts he has given his people. The health and work of our mission is due to the great people God has given us as leaders and supporters of our mission together and the fact that we release God’s people to use their gifts in service to Christ’s mission.

God began answering our prayers from the past three years as we attracted and kept mature, stable, Christian people to join us in mission who could become leaders of our congregation. We grew over the next few months to 35 people in attendance at worship. Through our partnership with District and Ted Hartman, we began looking for warehouse space which we could lease and renovate into a ministry center. One year after starting Sunday morning worship with 25 people, we celebrated our anniversary in our new worship center with 72 people in attendance! God is good. The work may be long and hard, with no hope in sight but through perseverance and faith we have witnessed God doing a great thing through us.

We decided our primary focus would be on outreach to families with young children. To that end, all our ministries are outreach is focused on families with young children, especially outreach. Guests represent 100% of the church growth potential for any congregation, thus guest retention becomes 100% of our growth potential. Being a small congregation that cannot compete with larger churches in terms of programs, we have had to work harder to keep and retain our guests. We now have a guest follow-up process provided by ConnectionPower.com that is helping us connect with more guests and increase the odds of more guests becoming active, participating members of our faith family.

