

## My Philosophy on Guest Ministers:

*The Vision Statement For Victory Life Church Is Written:*

**“To impact our community and the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, equipping believers to walk in victory through the Word in the power of the Spirit.”**

**# 7 on our Mission Statement says, “Victory Life Church is an Apostolic church, recognizing, receiving and releasing the five-fold ministry gifts of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers.”**

As a regular practice we bring in traveling ministers and teachers at least once a month. This has been a blessing to our church and for friends who visit from the area. We do this at a church that has a modest budget.

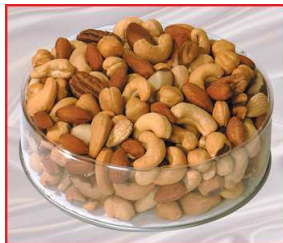
I have been greatly ministered to by traveling ministers in the past. Many gifts, spiritual impartations and prophetic words, healings and deliverance have been bestowed upon my life through the five-fold ministry. Had I attended a church that only brought in a token missionary or teacher a couple times a year I would not have received these blessings, and, in turn, would not have grown the way the Lord intended.

I traveled as an evangelist, teacher and prophet for close to nine years. I thought I was going to be one for the rest of my life, but God began nurturing the gift of pastor in my heart. I know the feeling of being an itinerant minister and the reception (good and bad) from the local church. This is a labor of love for those who travel, not one where one does so to become wealthy.

I have made adjustments to facilitate people’s busy schedules and promote greater support for traveling ministers. I have stopped to doing evening services regularly in lieu of having one night a month for our guest ministries to speak at least two services (usually) on a given Sunday.

### **Things I Have Seen That Have Grieved My Heart:**

1. People who only come to an evening service if they think there is a possibility of getting a prophetic word.
2. People who get a word in the morning service and decide they now don’t need to go to the evening, or subsequent services. This is one of the most ass-backward things I have ever heard of.
3. People who are so immature that if they don’t get a word and become offended about it. When Dick Mills ministered at VLC, he asked me to pick people out to minister over prophetically. I could not get to everybody. Some were ready to pluck my eyebrows out because I did not pick them! I like prophetic words as well as anyone. When I go to a prophetic service I have learned to subdue some of my selfishness by praying, “Lord, give others a word from you, especially those who need it most”.
4. People who only come for prophetic ministers, but will not come for teachers who may not be as charismatic, flashy and demonstrative. Teachers also bring an impartation *through* the Word they teach. *All* the gifts need to be respected and received from.



The five-fold ministry can be illustrated by a can of mixed nuts. You may have your favorite nut, but it is the variety of the mix that makes it so enjoyable. One particular kind of nut is not good enough. It is God’s idea to have variety in the graces He gifts people with. Learn to respect and receive from all the gifts in the Body of Christ!

5. People who are in desperate need of healing, but won’t consistently attend a series on divine healing. I will agree with you for healing, but you have to want your healing more than I want it for you.

**Romans 10:17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Notice it doesn’t say: “having heard 10 years ago”. Keep the manna fresh in your life)

~ People who go through marriage issues and when you bring in a guest speaker on marriage it is too inconvenient to come, or they don’t plan accordingly.



Tom Terry - one of our guest ministers we have had in over the years. Just because I placed his picture here doesn’t mean he is a nut, nor does it exclude that possibility either. For more information about his ministry go to: <http://www.faithalivelfellowship.org/>

~ People who are going through financial challenges and when you bring in a speaker on money management they decide they don't need it.

6. People who go overboard on a "personality" and make the traveling minister their pastor and start sending them their tithes. Their obsessive focus on one ministry gift equates to five-fold idolatry.

**1 Corinthians 3:3-7** for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal? 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

7. People who forsake being planted in the local church and follow ministers around from churches to conventions. They become charismatic butterflies floating from one gathering to another, seeking words from the Lord. Maybe a better word to describe them would be "FLAKE".

8. People who treat guest ministers like a smorgasbord. They take it if they like it. They avoid the green beans and only eat the chocolate sundae. They steer away from the messages that convict the soul and gravitate toward those that tickle the ear. Remember this, you can always find a teacher to justify strange doctrines or a lifestyle of sin.

**2 Timothy 4:2-4** Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

9. People who don't trust their pastors leading in who he brings in to minister. I can be honest and say it is very discouraging for me when people do not attend or support traveling ministers we bring in. It can be embarrassing. I don't feel people are supporting me as their pastor when they don't back what we are trying to do. How do you think a guest minister feels when only half or a third of the people come back for an evening service? I try to explain and make excuses for people, but shame on me because there is no excuse for lazy, apathetic and spoiled believers who don't want to be inconvenienced so they stay home to watch their favorite carnal TV show or movie! Only those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled!

10. People who only support traveling ministers if they feel sufficiently entertained. They want you juggle balls and spin plates like clowns in the circus.

11. People who go to doctrinal extremes based on the off-balanced teaching some traveling minister they are following. They become spiritual weirdoes!

12. People who forsake their own churches guest speaker meetings to jump on the band wagon of something else happening in area. It shows lack of loyalty, support, respect for their pastor and they miss the word that God has for that local body they are planted in with all the members in particular.

13. People who make stupid decisions and justify some weirdness or leading because of a personal prophecy they received from a traveling minister rather than having the word properly judged by leadership in the local house. I have seen a few disasters people have made of their lives.

**1 Corinthians 14:29** Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

## **Benefits of Traveling Ministries:**

### **1. Equipping & Edification**

**Ephesians 4:7-16** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ**, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

In my younger years I enjoyed Big Time Wrestling, especially the tag-team matches. I liken bringing in traveling ministers to joining me in a tag-team match against the hordes of hell. When one wrestler is in trouble, he tags the hand of his partner who comes in with a full head of steam and does damage against the opposition. Our traveling ministers are our tag team partners against the devil! Don't miss a victory and blessing when we bring them into town. You usually need one when you don't think you do.



**Coming to a church near you**

## 2. Joy (Encouragement)

**Acts 8:5-8** Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city.

**Acts 15:30-32** So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. 32 Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.

## 3. Impartation

**Romans 1:11-12** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established (strengthened)-- 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

CD's are good but they never replace being there.

## 4. Specialized Teaching

**Acts 15:35** Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

## Why Do We Like To Bless Our Guest Speakers?

We like to gift baskets for each of our speakers, cover their travel expenses, provide comfortable accommodations, and give a generous love offering. Why is this so important?

### 1. It meets the Christian standard of hospitality.

**Romans 12:13** Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

### 2. It shows a spirit of excellence

### 3. It honors Christ in the spirit of giving.

It is a sin to be stingy. I have spoken in a church of 300 in a prosperous area who gave us \$200.00 offering. I spoke in another church of 30 people who gave us \$800.00 in a less than prosperous area. Which one do you think had the spirit of giving?



I am very proud of VLC - we have been generous on a modest budget.

**Galatians 6:6-10** Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

### 4. It furthers the gospel of Christ

3 John 5-8 in the message version sums it up well ....

Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. They've made a full report back to the church here, a message about your love. It's good work you're doing, helping these travelers on their way, hospitality worthy of God himself! They set out under the banner of the Name, and get no help from unbelievers. So they deserve any support we can give them. In providing meals and a bed, we become their companions in spreading the Truth.

*Pastor Don*