



# Community of Joy A New Church in Henderson/Las Vegas

9 weeks to Launch

Countdown to October 9, 2011

Special points of interest:

- New Church to open soon in Henderson/Las Vegas.
- Husband and wife to co-pastor Church
- First service is set for Sunday, October 9, 2011

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.  
Proverbs 3:5, 6

Community of Joy  
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## Countdown to Launch—October 9, 2011

If you are receiving this Newsletter, it means we consider you to be a special friend and prayer warrior for our current adventure—planting a new church in Henderson/Las Vegas, Nevada. The church is called **"Community of Joy" and will have a unique emphasis on "mellow" worship.**

I have been uniquely trained by John Wimber of the Vineyard movement, by Chuck Smith of the Calvary chapel movement, by Jack Hayford of the Four-square Denomination and most recently Joel Osteen of the Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas. Each of these four icons of the Christian faith have implanted a unique imperative for our ministry.

First is the need for mellow passionate worship. We have been ministering to the boomer 50+ generation for many years. Many of these saints have been overlooked in the current 21st century church with its emphasis on rock and roll worship bands (sometimes bordering on heavy metal and rap), with loud deafening sound, heavy drum beats, screeching guitar solos and standing for hours at a time.

What is missing is the quieter, deeply spiritual, contemplative worship experience where a person meets with God, looks inside, and does business with the Holy Spirit. John Wimber lead a revolution with this type of worship where emotions were healed, bodies were made well, and tears ran freely. We will use instruments such as piano and brass, and sing familiar choruses and hymns along with some of the new passionate worship songs.



Randy Swanson and Samantha Landy Swanson  
Co-pastors of Community of Joy Church

Second is the need for the whole Bible to be taught. We will teach through the Bible from time to time to insure you are getting the whole counsel of God.

Third is the need for practical teaching that really helps people in mind, emotion, and spirit, and is understandable and applicable to their lives.

Finally, the message will always be filled with inspiration and joy. No beating on the sheep and no diet of exhortation about what you are not doing right.

We intend to build a community of joy where people know and care for each other, learn to worship, learn the Bible, and have the opportunity to serve others.

## Fiesta Hotel and Casino Prepared for Church Opening.

We have signed the agreement for the use of the beautiful Cancun banquet room at the Fiesta Hotel and Casino starting Sunday, October 9, 2011. We will meet at 10 am and finish about 11:30. We have reserved the room every Sunday for the next six months, hopefully we will need more room by then.

We picked Fiesta because it was so conveniently located at the intersection of two freeways, Hwy 215 and Hwy 95. The staff has been incredibly helpful

and responsive to our needs. The restaurants will serve our congregation both before and after the service. The room has great acoustics and a high **ceiling so you don't feel like you are in a hotel banquet room.** Angled walls and the tropical tree motif all add to the warmth and décor of the setting. It will be a great place to worship, fellowship, and learn the Word of God.

Community of Joy at the Fiesta—it's perfect!

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Insight: There was a time when God called His church back to an intimacy that He had missed for years. Hymns about God and faith were replaced with intimate loving songs sung directly to Jesus. Then the songs became repetitive and monotonous, with endlessly repeating three word phrases. Then we followed the world and went to rock and roll, rap, heavy metal, and loud, loud, loud. Clapping all the time, standing forever, and even a mosh pit like a rock concert. Just maybe God is calling us back to the place of mature intimacy. Songs of the heart, sung to Jesus and sometimes about Jesus, but with a genuine heart for deep personal worship, and with lyrics that say something intelligent. This is the place where people meet the Spirit of God and do business about their lives. This is where God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22). Meeting God in this way is where we find refreshing, courage, stamina, conviction, cleansing, joy, and so much more. Come worship with us.

Servant leadership in every situation.



## Miracles Keep On Happening! *We rejoice in God's favor.*

The  
Fiesta  
Hotel  
and  
Casino



The small miracles happening along **the way seem to display God's** favor and encouragement to continue on. First we connected with Donna Lawrence, a fabulous keyboard artist who had played for **Samantha's Christian Celebrity Luncheons** in Palm Springs for many years. She now happens to be living in Henderson. She introduced us to Larry, a tenor soloist currently on stage with Phantom of the Opera at the Venetian here in Las Vegas. He had a history of leading worship before he became a professional singer. We had dinner and shared history, and found out one of his best friends is one of my best friends. Donna and Larry have indicated their willingness to help. We were able

James, offered to help us get all of the equipment put together so next week we are meeting to do just that. At the optometrist this morning I met Jennifer, one of the technicians. She has recently come back to the Lord and is studying all of the material of Joyce Meyer. She has no church home so she will be joining us on October 9th. We had mentioned the church to one of our security guards that patrols our neighborhood. A few days ago he stopped by to ask if we had the church going yet, he wants to come. Everywhere we turn, people are hungry for this concept of mellow passionate worship. A friend from Colorado Springs told me on the phone that they are having a huge movement of young adults back to a mellow worship and away from the loud rock and roll model. My pastor friend in Sacramento told me just yesterday that the loud, clapping, rock and roll worship is passé in their town. More contemplative worship is what people are hungry for and they consider the old loud model to be nothing but a cliché in the modern church. I think we are on to something big and as God continues to lead we will see His handiwork.

to purchase a total sound system, lighting system, riser platforms, and much more from Continental Singers at a fraction of their cost. I did a funeral at the Ravella Resort Chapel here in Lake Los Vegas and a sound technician,