

Life on Mission #1: "Time for Action"

The times & challenges of the world in which we live:

1. *Random mass shootings: concerts, malls, health facilities, schools, churches. Results: 313 deaths, 1,209 wounded, and 289 mass shootings have occurred this year/*
2. *Conflict from country to country; leader against leader; conflict within countries: party disunity within & without.*
3. *Racism has "come out of the closet" AGAIN; anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world and in America; wars are raging between sects of various religions...*
4. *Families are under siege, many have failed, some stay together but remain divided. Generation Gaps are more pronounced.*
5. *In our beloved Valley there are many families who live with food insecurity, drug & alcohol addictions, domestic violence.*

My Dad had a car tag on his old station wagon that said, "Christ is the Answer". But I pondered as a youngster, "If Christ is the answer, what is the question?" People wonder, "is there any hope: are there any solutions to our world's problems; where is God in all of this? If Christ is the Answer, HOW?"

Where is God now? See Ephesians 2:13-22 The Message Bible

*"Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything. **The Messiah** has made things up between us so that we're now together on this...He **tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance.**"*

*"Then [Christ] he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody. **Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility.**"*

*"**Christ came and preached peace** to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. **He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.** That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. **This kingdom of faith is now your home***

country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. **You belong here**, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone."

"God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with **Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together.** We see it taking shape day after day—**a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.**"

Three mantras your pastor has repeated throughout Church 212's eleven-year journey (for good reason):

1. The Church **IS NOT** a Building; the Church **IS PEOPLE**
2. Our new building IS **NOT THE VISION**; our building **IS A TOOL**. The Church is Christ's Body – His physical manifestation on the earth!
3. Our Mission: "Church 212 exists to **RESTORE PEOPLE** by the love of God; to **IGNITE PASSION** through authentic worship; to **REVEAL GOD'S PURPOSE** through the ministry of reconciliation."

Big ask #1: Attend weekend services; bring someone with you!

Big ask #2: Grow through Christian fellowship in Life groups

Big ask #3: Discover YOUR gifts and how to use them at work, school, church & home to advance Christ's Kingdom.

Big ask #4: Serve the Lord in collaboration with your local church's mission; it is what God has called US to accomplish together!