

Thriving on Earth, Living the Kingdom

Judges 2:10 That whole generation was also gathered to their ancestors. After them another generation rose up who did not know the Lord or the works he had done for Israel.

Question: What is our earthly purpose? Why does Second Mile exist?

The first 10-14 years (2004-2018)

Amplifying the name of Jesus through cultural engagement. Reaching the next generation.

The Silent Generation 1928-1945

Baby Boomers 1946-1964

Gen X 1965-1980

Millennials 1981-1996

Gen Z 1997-2012

Gen Alpha starting 2010-12 to now (0-10 years old)

Currently we are a church predominately made up of Millennials.

Who are your friends?

Your kids are Gen Alpha.

Starting in 2018-2019, is Second Mile reaching the next generation?

Are we amplifying the name of Jesus through cultural engagement?

What is your interaction with Gen Z? Are you developing relationships with Gen Alpha? What shapes their thoughts, worldviews, spirituality?

Millennials -> Are you prepared? Is your heart ready? Have you been engaged in the deep work of training? What is the real health of your relationship with Jesus?

Is God's word regularly changing you? Are you filled more and more with the fullness of Jesus? Is the Holy Spirit a dear friend with whom you are quick to listen to and respond?

Can you genuinely say that practicing the way of Jesus is life giving?

2020 -> COVID -> isolation, suspicion, division

Which only highlighted the already in existence irritation and offense of political ideology and racial disparity.

Deuteronomy 5:8-10 Do not make an idol for yourself in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. **9** Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them, because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, **10** but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands.

Those who love me and keep my commands.

Matthew 5:17 "Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

Read Romans 8:1-11

Romans 15:4-7 For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures. **5** Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus, **6** so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice. **7** Therefore welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to the glory of God.

When we (the church / Second Mile) live and worship in Christ shaped harmony and love we bear witness to the presence and power of God's glory.

One mind and one voice (harmony)

vs. 7, Welcome / receive / accept one another just as Christ has welcomed you.

Question: How are you living? How much time and effort do you spend enjoying your relationship with Jesus and cultivating a relationship with your peers and the next generation?

God's gift of endurance and encouragement is abundant.

Matthew 10:40 The one who welcomes you welcomes me, and the one who welcomes me welcomes him who sent me.

This is the conclusion of Jesus' sermon on mission.

- We represent Jesus.
- As as those who represent Jesus we will be received the same as if it were Jesus himself.

Each step of the narrow path involves a declaration of the gospel (salvation / eternal life).
Over time with the declaration of the gospel the good news is received (salvation / eternal life).

This is true! Even if we struggle to believe it.

Question: Is Jesus the very center of our affections? Have you personally and collectively accepted the message of Jesus? Do you / we live the joy of Jesus?

The process of acceptance assumes action and responsibility.

- This is why we are going to take 2024 and spend time as a community discussing the why.
- This is why we welcome and this is why we gather as the family of God.
- We have purpose. We have a goal in mind. We are running in such a way as to win the race!

Things must not remain the same.

- Yes it will be an interruption to the current routines of your life.
- It will require fellowship, trust, and cooperation. Notice: these are the opposite characteristics generated in our culture coming out of COVID.
- If given the proper attention it will enhance your life...it really will!