

Further Onward, Further Upward
Jeremiah 29:4-7; Colossians 4:2-6
We are a Present People

We are a people who are prayerfully present in our community, with our community, and for our community, so that we can passionately persuade our community to faithfully follow Jesus.

- I. Our presence in the community must be a defining feature of our identity.
 - a. For too long, the church in the West has taken on a fortress mentality.
 - b. The church in the West has also been known more for its negative presence.

- II. Our presence in the community should be shown by our investment in the community. (Jeremiah 29:4-7)
 - a. Our presence in the community should be a building and cultivating presence.
 - b. Our presence in the community should be a positive and life-giving presence.

- III. Our presence provides us with an opportunity to witness to the goodness and glory of God. (Colossians 4:2-6)
 - a. Our consistent presence starts with the fact that God has been present with us (incarnational theology).
 - b. Our consistent presence will provide us with opportunities to walk in wisdom before the watching world.

- IV. Our witness should be prepared by our prayers and empowered by our presence. (Colossians 4:2-6)
 - a. Therefore, we will be very intentional to engage our community through our serving presence.
 - b. On a corporate level, we will engage our community through outdoor presence events (i.e. Summer Block Party, Worship in the Park, etc.).
 - c. On a life group level, we will engage our community through helping each life group connect with local partners in order to serve the community.

