



Huddle Up  
Part 1  
June 6, 2021

The Commission and the Plan

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 28:16-20, “<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Great Commission that Jesus gave to His Disciples in Matthew 28 and the reiteration of that Commission in Acts 1:8 is clear with one resounding theme; The Great Commission that was given to the Church has given the Church a Great Mission to accomplish! This Commissioning should be the heartbeat of our Church because it is the Heartbeat of the Messiah!

If Jesus gave us the Great Commission and promised us Great Power, then we have all that we need to make the decision to facilitate our role in accomplishing the mission! Our Commander and Chief has given us His standing orders until He returns! Some may ask, “Why is this Great Commission such an importance to the Church?”

Because it is our Commissioning that gives us our purpose and our mission. The Great Commission defines our “Why” as a Church and Institution and if we are not on mission, then we are suffering mission creep. We are getting off task, losing our purpose, sacrificing our vision, and losing our future. We must all refocus upon the standing orders of Christ! To GO into all the World, preach the gospel, make disciples, baptize them into Christ and in the Holy Spirit, and see God’s Kingdom expand upon the Earth!

## 1. There is a Great Commission because there is a Great Mission for the Church to Accomplish!

- a. We must bear the responsibility not only to God but also to one another to ensure that the Great Commission maintains the central theme and focus in our Local Body.

- i. Matthew 24:1-14, “Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” <sup>3</sup> As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

- ii. We have a responsibility to Christ to ensure that His message goes to the four corners of the Earth! Notice the words of Christ in verse 14, “<sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”
- iii. If we believe that we are in the End Times, then we should all make it our Mission to ensure that the Gospel of the Kingdom is being proclaimed and that our Church is on Mission!

## 2. There is a Great Commission because there is a Great Need for the Church to be actively involved in its Local Community as well as in the World!

- a. We must be willing to wash the feet of a Culture of Brokenness and Sin or we will be found guilty of washing our hands of the Great Commission. It's called the Great Commission; not the Great Suggestion.
- b. And if our Lord and Teacher has washed the dirtiest places of our lives then we must be willing to do the same. For He has given us an example of what we should do for others just as He has done for us.
- c. The Apostle James noted the following in his Letter found in James 1:22-25 records, “<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets



what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

- d. There is a World around us that needs what we have! That Needs the Gospel! That Needs a Touch from God! That needs the Power of the Holy Spirit to be made manifest!
- e. There is a Great Commission because there is a Great Need for the Church to be actively involved in its Local Community as well as in the World!

### 3. There is a Great Commission because there is a Great Story to Tell!

- a. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 3:1-2, “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some *others*, epistles of commendation to you or *letters* of commendation from you? <sup>2</sup> You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; <sup>3</sup> clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.”
- b. We are living Epistles known and read of all men; Men will read our lives long before they will ever read their Bibles!
- c. Some of the Greatest Stories ever told is when our History becomes His Story! The Bible has not ceased to be written! There are hundreds of millions of Epistles that are still being written and each one is named! Each one us are living Epistles being transposed by the Authorship of the Holy Spirit, being written by the Blood of Christ!
- d. Dear friend, there is a Great Commission because there is a Great Story to Tell! And some of the Greatest Stories ever told are the stories that you have lived!

#### 4. There is a Great Commission because there is a Great Void that the Church has been Called to Fill!

- a. Over the past year and a half, our world has witnessed some of the most intense and trying times that we have had to endure as a whole. But in light of what this season has revealed, the one apparent signal that we all must all lend ourselves to is the Great Void in our world for the Gospel and the Church.
- b. This Great Void is more than just our Message but it is also our actions, our outreaches, our heart, our words, our everything. Our community, our parish, our state, our nation and our world need the Church! But not only does our world need the Church, our community, state and nation need The Assembly West Monroe!
- c. After my election here at The Assembly in January of 2020, I had a conversation with Pastor Tom Lowe, the Lead Pastor of Christ Church who is a dear friend and colleague, and during this conversation he made a statement to me that still rings true in my heart today. He said, “West Monroe and Ouachita Parish need a strong The Assembly West Monroe. Our community needs you strong again!”
- d. And Church family, I agree completely. Ouachita Parish, West Monroe, Monroe, Ruston, Eros, Calhoun, Farmerville, Bawcomville, Columbia, Start and every other community and city within 2 hours from here deserves a strong First Assembly of God West Monroe to be a beacon of Hope, shining the light of the Gospel, and preaching the full gospel unashamedly as we strive to disciple, develop, and deploy our Church to make an impact upon our world and this generation. If there has ever been a time where The Assembly West Monroe needs to arise to the challenge, shoulder the weight, and charge forward for the sake of the Kingdom, it is NOW!

## 5. There is a Great Commission because there is a Great Purpose for Everyone who has been Born Again!

- a. Church family, we have a Great Purpose! A great individual purpose as well as a great corporate purpose as a Church body and I can stand here flat footed and tell you that I am assured now more than ever that the Best is truly Yet to Come for The Assembly West Monroe!
- b. But with our purpose, there must be a plan! The evening before I was elected, I presented to this great body a three part plan that we would implement organization wide and I am happy to report to you that our plan is working. This plan was Three Part: Relationship, Discipleship, and Partnership. The changes that we have made under my leadership are not just working but said changes have been highly effective and the Lord has helped us through this process.
- c. And in spite of all that 2020 threw at us, we have completely re-staffed our leadership team, restructured our organization with systems and protocols to streamline our operational perimeters, recalibrated our budget structure and we are now operating at a premium, and on top of that we have completed revamped every department church wide thus bringing new growth and new life to our Church body. Church family, we are vibrant again, we are growing again, we are stable again, we are united again, we are on Mission again. We are The Assembly West Monroe!

### The Plan

#### Relationship = Build Community

- Establish Life Groups - Build a Christian community to impact our local community
  - Life Groups will be re-launching in the Fall of 2021 (This Year) and we need as many of you as possible who would be willing to host a group at your home and/or lead a group to partner with us in this endeavor.

- **Establish a Strong Men's Ministry -**
  - Statistics state 3.5% of families get saved if the child is saved first; 17% if the wife is saved first; 93% if the husband is saved first
  - If we can get the man, we get the whole family. We must have a strong men's ministry and Pastor Beck Payne has done an absolutely amazing job with building a leadership team, providing vision and heart for this ministry as well as in bringing strong teaching and insight to what a Biblical Man is supposed to be. We averaged over 100 men per gathering and we are now in the process of planning for the future of this vital department.
  - Men of The Assembly, it is time for us to take our rightful place as leaders of our homes and lead the charge; not only in our homes but also in our Church!
  
- **Recalibrate the Women's Ministries**
  - Under the Leadership of Shannon Jackson and the Women's Ministry Team, we now have weekly bible studies, weekly devos shared on social media, monthly luncheons, Destination Day Trips, as well as corporate gatherings, which includes breakout sessions lead by women of The Assembly, to encourage, equip and empower the ladies of The Assembly to be all that Christ has called them to be!
  
- **Generate strong and stable Church attendance on Sundays and Wednesdays**
  - Obviously, Covid-19 along with a myriad of other factors impacted our attendance. With that said, here are some things that we are doing and are about to do to help drive attendance and participation in our corporate gatherings.
    - Dual Series - Sunday Series / Wednesday Series
    - Perpetuate strong worship experiences
    - Institute Sunday Morning Life Groups on Campus
    - First Wednesday Night Worship and Prayer Gatherings
    - Altar Times (Both during Worship as well as at the end of Service)

- With that said, the Leadership Team of The Assembly can't do this all by ourselves. So here are some specific things that we need you to do weekly because we are all in this together.
  - Commit to Faithful Attendance and Support of The Assembly
  - Create a Culture of Invitation (Weekly invite someone to come to church with you; they will come if you will invite them)
  - Show up early for Prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays (Help us set an atmosphere for miracles and the Move of the Holy Spirit)
  - Get your children and youth here for services on Wednesdays
  - Share our services weekly as well as any other promotional posts that is made via our church social media page (Virtual Evangelism)
  - Get involved as a volunteer in a department of the Church (signups to serve will be facilitated over the next few weeks in service and I need everyone to sign-up to serve somewhere)
  - Engage, Support and Rally around the Vision
  
- Build strong community within youth and young adults departments
  - This includes both the heads of those departments and leadership team both taking a vested interest in our next generation.
    - Pastor James and Daralyn Pepmiller - Young Adults
    - Pastor Cody and Haleigh Earnest - Sr. High
    - Pastor Jeremy Stickell - Jr. High
  
- Facilitate Discipleship and Holy Spirit emphasis in our Kids' Ministry
  - Wednesday Night Discipleship Track
  - Sunday Morning Service Track
  
- Why is community so important? Because a strong community, (common unity), within the body itself allows for sustainable growth as well as stabilization if and when any form of transition takes place within the organization itself.



## Discipleship - Build Individuals

- **Spiritual Emphasis Weekend - Annual Empowerment Conference on Pentecost Sunday Weekend**
  - This year's Empowerment Conference was a HUGE success! We had an untold number of people who received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, lives were changed, and hearts impacted. Souls were saved and I believe firmly that this gathering completely changed the course of our Church for the good.
  
- **Doctrinal Teaching (16 Fundamental Truths)**
  - This will be perpetuated in all departments in some form and I specifically taught through our 16 doctrinal points as an Assembly of God church twice in 2020.
  - It is my goal to teach our doctrinal stances annually in some form as we progress in our growth in Christ and in understanding of His Word.
  
- **Individual Discipleship**
  - Annual Bible Reading Plan; Personal ownership of Faith; Self investment
  - This will kick off in January with our annual bible reading plan as a church body
  - Christian Development through life groups, discipleship, and service in our faith community.
  
- **Group Discipleship**
  - Life Groups which was discussed earlier with our relaunch in the fall of this year and if anything that 2020 has taught us is that relationship and connection is precious and necessary for spiritual and mental health.

- Corporate Discipleship
  - Church Service attendance, engagement, and support.

“So Pastor what is your goal for our Church as an organization as well as a community of faith?” Simply put, I want your partnership in the Things of God.

### Partnership - Build Engagement

- I want your partnership in your Time
  - Faithful attendance to Sundays, Wednesdays, and Life Groups
- I want your partnership in your Talent
  - Areas of Service within the Church itself = Every department needs help
- I want your partnership in your Tithe
  - Financial Partnership = Tithe, Offerings, Heart for The House
- I want your partnership in your Touch
  - Community Impact = local schools, community, government, etc.

Church, the bottom line is this. We have survived the storms and rough seas and now it is time to set our destination and get underway. If we intend to leave a mark that cannot be erased then it is time for us to get about the Father's Business.