

Shine Through Goodness
The Power of the Many
October 2, 2016

PRELUDE – King of Love
Worship Songs – King of Love / We Are

Announcements – Shannon

Welcome to NHCC.

Great weekend with Golf Tournament on Friday with beautiful weather and 16 teams.

Awesome Guys BBQ Crawl with 25 guys checking out four great local spots.

Coming up next we have our Building Stronger Marriages Mini Conference on Friday, October 21st. This FREE event will feature a main session on getting

off the crazy cycle as well as breakout sessions led by our leadership team to help you strengthen your marriage. Free childcare and light refreshments will be provided. Just be sure to register on-line at our website or app.

Today is a special day here at NHCC. On this day 22 years ago – October 2nd, 1994 – North Heartland held its very first service at New Mark Middle School.

Today is also a special day at Wellspring Community Church in St. Joseph. 10 years ago today, October 2nd, 2006, they held their very first service. And the reason that matters is that we – North Heartland – planted that church. Our daughter is now 10 years old.

So this morning, Rick will not be here to do the message because he (and Ladell) are participating in their 10th anniversary celebration. But that's not a problem because, yesterday, he made a video of what he wants to tell us today as we conclude our series, *Shine Through Goodness*.

Let's watch.

Mini-Message from Rick – Video:

Good morning everyone.

As Shannon said, I am not with you today because I have the privilege of being part of the 10-year anniversary celebration at Wellspring Community Church. It's a great honor to be associated with them and to have been part of their initial launch process.

What I mean by that is that the guy who planted that church and is still the senior pastor – Bob Miller – worked here at NHCC for a year as a church-planter-in-

training. And then we, collectively, donated \$50K to his project so that they could acquire a facility and the various other things needed for the start-up operation.

And Wellspring has been among the greatest successes we've had in planting churches. Some of you may not know this but, over our 22 year history, we've actually been involved in the start-up (or relaunch) of *six* churches, four of which are still in existence and doing very well. In fact, church planting was a major emphasis for us when we began back in 1994 ... because no one was doing it. There was very little support, training, and coaching for people – like me – who felt a calling to that kind of work.

So, our leadership team took it as our responsibility to do that for others.

In fact, we went so far as to include it in our overall purpose statement as a church. If you've been to our *Introduction to North Heartland* class at any point over the last 20 years or so, you heard us say that we're here to do three things: reach seekers, build a family and plant churches.

- To “Reach Seekers” means helping people who are searching for meaning and purpose in their life meet Jesus and get connected to His body – the church.
- To “Build a Family” means developing and growing

a radically generous community of Christ-followers who love and care for each other so well that others (especially seekers) want to be part of it.

- To “Plant Churches” means putting time, energy (and, often, big dollars) into launching other congregations that will, among other things, reach seekers and build a family of believers.

However ... *times are changing* in the world of church planting. It's still as necessary as it ever was (and you'll see why a little bit later in this service) but today, unlike the situation 22 years ago (and even 10 years ago when Bob planted Wellspring) there is a wealth of support, training and coaching for those who plant churches. Many organizations have sprung up over the past 10 years who do an outstanding job of that kind of thing.

In fact, they do it much better than we have ever done it and will ever be able to do it.

As we pondered this new reality at our pastoral leadership retreat back in April, we sensed God leading us to adjust our thinking as it relates to our involvement in planting churches: specifically, that instead of being one of the three major objectives of our church (Reach/Build/Plant), it needed to diminish and become a smaller part of a brand new objective ...

... an objective which is directly related to what we've been talking about since Easter in this *Shine* mega-series.

Unless you've just walked in the door or you have slept through five months of my messages, you know that we've been talking in great detail about what it means to literally carry out Jesus' command for his followers to be light shining in a world that is lacking in direction and purpose and meaning.

If you've been paying attention to all of the stress and division in politics and all the racial tension; all of the fear over the economy and ISIS and the election, I think you can see why it's more important than ever that you and I as individuals, and you and I as members of the collective body of Christ take seriously our role. No matter who wins on November 8th, neither Washington nor Jeff City has the ultimate answer for the well-being and flourishing of our local community. *We do.*

And by that, I don't mean that we just hold church services so that seekers can find Jesus and become part of the family that we're building. What I mean is that we, as a church collectively, are generous, gracious, God-centered, Gospel-driven and good. And in this series, we've gone to great lengths to define and understand what those terms mean so I won't go back through that. We made a bunch of cool refrigerator magnets that you can pick up on the table in the vestibule as a reminder.

See, Jesus called us – Christians collectively – the *ecclesia* (which is the Greek word that gets translated “church”). He said, “I will build my church/*ecclesia*.”

But we learned two weeks ago that “ecclesia” – to those who lived in the Greco-Roman world of Jesus’ day – didn’t describe a building or even a group of people who came together to worship and encourage one another. In fact, it wasn’t a religious term at all.

Instead, ecclesia was used to describe a group of wise elders who were concerned with the well-being and flourishing of their community. An ecclesia was a community within a community whose purpose was to add value to that community.

Jesus said that’s who we are to be to our community.

Our community – the Northland, our city – Kansas City, is supposed to be better because we’re here. Our goodness (which we defined two weeks ago as “energized faith expressing itself in acts of love and service for the benefit of others”) ... our goodness is to impact this community.

And that’s why we’re no longer stating our purpose as a church as Reach Seekers, Build a Family and Plant Churches. From now on our collective purpose – what we’re trying to accomplish together – is to Reach Seekers, Build a Family and *Impact our Community*.

And the way we’re going to do that is through strategic partnerships with six other ad-hoc groups and non-profit organizations (including a church planting organization) who are able to do good in ways that we cannot. These

folks are great at this and we're going to support them while continuing to do the thing that we do best - reaching seekers and building a family of believers.

Now, in just a few minutes, Shannon is going to come back up and we're going to learn more about these incredible groups and organizations and how we're going to be involved. But, before we do that, we're going to take a short break so we can receive the offering. The band is going to do a song to set things up and the ushers will be passing the baskets.

And just so you'll know, the money we receive in our regular offerings goes primarily to reaching seekers and building a family here. And we greatly appreciate everyone who contributes by either giving in the service or online, but we especially appreciate those who have taken the step to ensure their generosity by setting up a recurring online donation.

Feature – The Way It Is / Offering

Our Impact Partners

That might be the way it is but that's not the way it has to be. We can help

change it through strategic partnerships with organizations that do good in ways that we cannot.

At our pastor's retreat when we came up with this idea, we knew it would be tempting to try and help every great organization out there, but we knew that we couldn't. To maximize the impact of our collective support, we would need to narrow the list down to no more than six Impact Partners. By limiting it to six, we would be able to donate more than a few hundred dollars here and we could focus our efforts.

So as we began to interview and assess a variety of organizations, we used the following criteria to determine which groups we would partner with this

year.

- What is not being done that we can do?
- What burdens us?
- What could involve the people of NHCC in a tangible way?
- What are our people already involved with?
- Does it benefit the Northland?

And with this criteria in mind, we chose the groups and organizations you will hear about this morning.

In the last couple of weeks, Rick and I sat down with representatives from each group to hear from them how their group/organization impacts our community, what they need most and how we can pray for them. I wish we

had time to show you everything they said because it was awesome!

NHCC Teacher Resource Center

So let's begin with the first group.

For the past three years, NHCC has already been working to impact our community through our Teacher Supply Giveaway. Hundreds of teachers and classrooms have been supported through the generosity of NHCCers when educators have been invited in to shop for free supplies. We know that when we resource an educator we are investing in a whole class of children and students. And that makes a difference.

Let's hear about how from NHCCer and

lifelong educator Teresa Tulipana whose interview was filmed in the newly outfitted Teacher Resource Center located here at NHCC.

Let's watch.

Video – Teacher Resource Center (Teresa Tulipana)

So through the donations of NHCCers, we will continue to offer supplies through our Teacher Resource Center year round as well as through our annual Teacher Giveaway. Additionally, we allow local teachers and school staff to use our space for free for meetings and training.

Send KC

Now, as Rick said, our involvement

with church planting isn't ending. We're just going to be participating in a less-direct way focusing on financial support. Specifically, every year we do a fireworks project in Leavenworth and the money we raise through that goes to help new churches <this past year, and next summer, Grain Valley>.

Going forward, however, we're going to be partnering with the North American Mission Board project called "Send KC" which is directed by Matt Marrs.

In this next video, Matt is going to talk about why church planting is so important and how our fundraising efforts make a difference.

Let's watch.

Video – Send KC (Matt Marrs)

Some great and exciting stuff happening here in KC thanks to the Send KC initiative and we are looking forward to partnering with them financially but also through other resources such as our space. In December, we will be hosting the NAMB for a two and half day church planting seminar.

One-by-One

Two years ago our hearts were broken when we learned the staggering statistics of human sex trafficking in Kansas City. Because we are in the crosshairs of the East-West/North-South interstate highway system, KC is

the fourth largest hub for human trafficking.

Thanks to NHCCer Stacey Quarles, we were put in touch with two organizations which are working hard to address this problem: One by One Project and Restoration House KC.

First we'll hear from Jessica who serves as a high capacity volunteer for One by One. Actually, all of the staff and leadership at One by One are volunteers. There is no paid staff for this organization.

Video – One-by-One (Jessica Motter)

Restoration House

Next up is September from Restoration

House KC. Restoration House helps women who have been rescued from the trafficking industry to have Hope Restored through a safe place to heal and start again.

Video – Restoration House (September Tribble)

And so through the support of NHCC and other churches, the hope is that Restoration House will gain enough financial support to start running a business that allows the women to work while they heal.

For the past two years, we have supported both of these organizations through our annual charity golf tournament. This past Friday – thanks to our 16 teams of golfers and corporate sponsors – we raised over

\$7,000.00 which will be donated to these two organizations.

Something to Eat

Any student at NHCC who has attended summer camp at Youthfront with us in the past few years, is aware of this next Impact Partner, Something to Eat.

Video – Something to Eat (Dylan Aebersold)

We are very excited to partner with Something to Eat and help feed the hungry in our community.

This Christmas, NHCC will once again host Celebration of Christmas and 100% of the ticket sales will go to benefit Something to Eat.

In addition to financial support, we are looking forward to hosting some meal packaging events at NHCC, especially for our Next Gen ministries.

Parkville Women's Clinic

Our final Impact Partner, Parkville Women's Clinic, is an organization that works with women who find themselves unexpectedly expecting. The clinic offers free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and a variety of support. We chose this organization because we believe that every life matters to God and therefore, there ought to be alternatives to abortion.

Later this fall, whatever we earn from our Cool to Be Blue small mall and concession stand will be donated to the

clinic.

As we hear from Sonya Rice, the Center's Executive Director, pay particular attention to why what they do matters to her.

Video – Parkville Women's Clinic (Sonya Rice)

Feature – If We Only Had the Heart

Challenge – Video (Rick)

Such a great song. "If we only had the heart" we could reach out. We could show the love of Jesus. We could have an impact on our community as individuals and together as a church through our goodness.

But it takes more than just a heart. That's where it begins. As we've said countless times through the years, you can only give away what you've already received. If you haven't received the love of Jesus and aren't living out of the love He has for you, your heart's capacity for good will never reach its full potential. It always goes back to Christ and what he has done for us, is doing for us and will do for us.

But it takes more than just a heart because goodness isn't truly good unless it acts in ways that benefit others.

- Sometimes, that means that we as individuals do “random acts of kindness” which Ladell talked to us about last week.
- And sometimes, it means that we all pool our resources together as a church (the ecclesia) and do something that adds value to our community; something that increases the well-being and flourishing of our neighbors.

This morning we've talked about how we're going to do that throughout the year; helping to support organizations and groups that do good in ways we're not called and equipped to do as a church. And I'm excited about how that's all going to roll out.

But there is one thing we could do right now that would have a huge immediate impact. And that is for every one of us to make an immediate donation to our *Impact Partner Fund*. In fact, I'm going to challenge you to do that. I'm going to challenge you to give \$29.95 for each adult in your family before you leave this building.

By my calculations based on the number of adults who typically show up each week, if we did that we could raise about \$15K - 100% of which we would then distribute among our partners.

Now, I know some of you are thinking: “where did you come up with that number, Rick? \$29.95”

- That’s about what it’s going to cost me to play golf tomorrow.
- That’s about what it will cost my wife to get her nails done next week.
- That’s about what it usually costs to get my cute little dog shampooed and trimmed.
- That’s what it will cost most of us to go out for a nice lunch after church today.

See, \$29.95 for the great majority of us is discretionary money; fun money; money we will spend without even thinking about it; money we can give without ever missing it.

In fact, a lot of us – maybe not the majority but a lot – could give twice that amount and never miss it. We could give \$59.95. That’s what Jetta and I are going to do. Some of you could do that with us.

Now, some of you can’t do that. And you can’t do \$29.95. I get that. But you could give \$9.95 by not renting movies this week. You could give \$5.95 by skipping a cup of fancy coffee this week.

Friends, I don’t know what any of us can or can’t give but I do know that all of us can give *something*. And together, as a church, we can have an impact for good in this community.

Shannon, tell the folks how they can participate.

CLOSING COMMENTS – Shannon

1. How to respond:

- Write a check or put cash in an envelope and give to ushers baskets at the door
- Swipe a card giving kiosks at the Impact Fund Table in commons
- Online giving at website or app, select the Impact Partners fund

2. Dismiss in prayer