

**Immigrants have always been major contributors to the US.** Famous ones include: Albert Einstein (Germany), Joseph Pulitzer (Hungary), Sergei Brin (Google, Russia), Chinua Achebe (Author, Nigeria), Elon Musk (South Africa), Nicola Tesla (Croatia), Andrew Carnegie (Scotland), John Lennon (England), Carlos Santana (Mexico). Also, those who at least one parent was an immigrant include Walt Disney (Irish-Canadian), Steve Jobs (Syrian), Barack Obama (Kenyan), Ray Croc (McDonalds, Czech), Nikki Haley (Indian), Colin Powell (Jamaican), Alex Rodriguez (Dominican Republic), Renee Zellweger (Swiss, Norwegian), Joan Rivers (Russian).

**Good News Church** is rich in its international congregation. It provides diverse resources to equip children of all ages. The Word of God is taught there, and we are encouraged to study it for ourselves. The leadership (Pastors and staff) are very grounded in Christ. The worship team is excellent. Life Groups are critical in helping to build community. The church is impacting society beyond its four walls.

### **So why do we celebrate International Day?**

In a world that is increasingly divided over every topic imaginable, the world needs Good News to model and demonstrate the power of intentional love in uniting everyone, especially those of us with different backgrounds.

According to the Bible, Good News Church aligns with God's nature and plan for His Kingdom.

**Our Good News Vision:** We live to see (ALL) lives transformed through Jesus.

**How?** We Connect, We Disciple, We Empower

**Dr. Davies thoughts:** I strongly believe that God has not just brought us together to be happy that we have a diverse church, but perhaps He has brought us together for such a time as this to be the church that changes the world and unites our community and our nation. And in doing so, it changes the trajectory of our nation.

You don't see how? Don't worry, God does. It took Jesus and twelve rag-tag, uneducated people to change the world then. Imagine what we can do with what He has blessed us with here and now.

We have to start believing what we say. We must begin to declare what we know and believe. Your words have creative power.

- What does it mean “your words have creative power” and do you believe it? How have you seen it evidenced?

There has to be some discomfort when considering where God wants us to go. (1 Timothy 1:7) Can you share an example of this? Why is this statement true?

### **Unique Tenets of Good News Church that are worthy of celebration and should be embraced by all of us:**

1. WE ARE A MODEL OF GOD’S KINGDOM

We have at least 39 countries represented, 21 people groups/tribes, 30 Kingdom Builder Partner countries, 5 Good News Global Worker countries

2. WE ARE MULTIPLE NATIONS, WITH ONE DIVINE PURPOSE Acts 17: 26-28

3. WE ARE UNITED THROUGH CHRIST Galatians 26-28

4. WE EMBRACE OUR DIFFERENCES 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

5. WE ARE A PLACE WHERE ALL BELIEVERS BELONG! 1 Corinthians 12:15-17

We have to actually believe it. We are called to be that unifying bridge for our world.

- What can that look like?

6. WE ARE MANY PARTS, BUT ONE BODY 1 Corinthians 12:18-21

We must treat all parts of the body with dignity. The most vital parts are the unseen parts. Not only in the physical but in the spiritual realm.

- What is an unseen body part that often does not get respected for how vital it is?

- What is an unseen “body part” in the Kingdom that often gets unrecognized and under-valued?

7. NO ONE IS LESS THAN THE OTHER 1 Corinthians 12:22-27

8. WE CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER 1 Corinthians 12:22-27

9. WE WELCOME ALL NATIONS LIKE JESUS DOES Revelation 7:9-10

10. GOD THE CREATOR REIGNS HERE Colossians 1:16-17

In election times, people get the most divided. If we are going to stand out we must show unity. Who is going to change the situation? **Look in the mirror. It is up to us.**

- Will we keep cursing the darkness or will we light a candle? Explain this question and share your thoughts.

It is incredible the light produced when multiple candles are lit. (think how Christmas Eve service looks - lighting one candle at a time.)

- How can we do this? How can we stand out and represent unity even in our differences?

11. WE MODEL THAT GOD DOES NOT SHOW FAVORITISM James 2:1-4
12. WE BELONG TOGETHER AND HONOR EACH OTHER Romans 12: 4-5,10
13. IT IS WHO IS IN ME THAT MATTERS 1 Corinthians 3:16, Colossians 3:11
14. WE ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN, NOT EARTH Philippians 3:20
15. WE ARE TRANSFORMED THROUGH HOLY SPIRIT Acts 2:1-4
16. WE DRAW PEOPLE TOGETHER Acts 2:5-6
17. WE SUPPORT THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL Acts 2:7-11
18. WE ARE BLESSED AND NOT CONFUSED BY OUR DIFFERENCES Acts 2:12-16
19. WE WELCOME YOU, HOLY SPIRIT Acts 2:17
20. GOD'S SPIRIT IS Poured ON ALL OF US Acts 2:18-19
21. EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN GOD'S KINGDOM Acts 2:19-21
22. WE BELIEVE IN THE GREAT COMMISSION Matthew 28:19-20
23. WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD LOVED US FIRST John 3:16

His love is for everyone. No restrictions. Therefore, our love is to be for everyone. No restrictions. ALL have the right to believe in Him.

24. OUR LOVE GOES BEYOND GOOD NEWS' WALLS Matthew 5:43-45
25. WE LOVE NOT JUST THOSE WHO LOVE US Matthew 5:46-48
26. OUR LOVE IS CHRIST'S TESTIMONY John 13:34-35
27. WE ARE EACH WONDERFULLY MADE Psalm 139:14-16

Notice ALL the various portions of scripture today that speak to the **whole, united** body of Christ.

- How can we model and demonstrate the power of intentional love in uniting everyone, especially those of us with different backgrounds?

- What is something you can celebrate about Good News Church?

- In what way is God asking you to get on mission with us? There are far too many nations and tribes who have yet to hear the name of Jesus and according to the scripture we read today, this is part of our responsibility to make Him known among the nations. What is your role?