

Make Open Arms Great Again - Behold the Lamb

Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42a

Love him or hate him, our current President knows a thing or two about effective _____. He saw a _____ among many in this country to go back to a simpler time, to reverse a number of changes, including the general quality of life for average Americans. Remarkably, it worked!

Given that Open Arms Church, as well as the overwhelming majority of _____ in America, are in a similar situation, perhaps we should consider how to "Make Open Arms Great Again."

We are here because there are things we _____ about OA. But just looking at the size of our facilities tells us OA-CHURCH is a _____ of its former self. The _____ has greatly expanded, but the church has not.

Last week we studied the Baptism of Jesus, which was the _____ of his public ministry. Why not start something new _____?

I don't claim to have the _____ and the world has changed so much, so quickly, that we should not expect the _____ to look exactly like the past. But some things _____ change.

Today's Bible passages highlight 3 important, timeless truths:

God wants all people to know Jesus and be _____.

_____ plays a crucial role!

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Therefore, OA Leadership would like to reintroduce the "Faith5" to the _____ OA Family.

Isaiah 49 is another "Servant Song" Christians believe speaks prophetically of _____. Consider verses 6&7.

The season of _____ starts with the arrival of the wise men and the beginning of the fulfillment of Isaiah 49. It continues bit by bit, and with the declaration of John the Baptist. It is made possible through his eventual death and _____, and then the work of Jesus' Apostles after the Great Commission.

We also see the crucial role of families in the spread of the Gospel:

John the Baptist is a _____ of Jesus!

Peter, the Chief Apostle(!) is brought to Jesus by his _____!

We must engage the _____ if we want to revitalize our congregation.

This can be something that ALSO encourages our _____ OA Family.

The Faith5 helps families "_____, the Lamb."

We need your _____ to bring the Faith5 to over 125 families over the next 5-10 years.

What is the Faith5? A commitment to do 5 things each night:

1) _____ highs and lows. 2) _____ a Bible verse or story. 3) _____ about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows. 4) _____ for one another's highs and lows. 5) _____ one another.

God's Word and His Word Made Flesh, Jesus Christ _____ things. Maybe if we make an intentional effort to "Behold, the Lamb" together at home, we will see the spiritual growth we no doubt need to MOAGA. OA, nor any other congregation, could ever be great if the Lamb of God is NOT it's greatest focus.

Will you commit to this in your home?

Will you be a “champion” for this at OAC? OACC? OACDC? Can you think of a good candidate?

What other ways could you more faithfully “Behold the Lamb”?

What are you going to DO about it?