

WHY We Do What We Do!

“Everyone doesn’t need everyone.....everyone just needs someone”

We all need some LET-US!

Hebrews 10: 23-25 LET US hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And LET US consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ LET US not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but LET US encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching

MY WORD FOR THE CHURCH FOR 2024: EMPOWER

Empower: To give someone the authority or power to do something.
To make someone stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights.

Empower spiritually
Empower time/talent & treasure
Empower agents of healing
Empower the team
Empower leaders

TODAY: WHY we do what we do! The Mission

Main thing will always be the main thing to me!

PEOPLE NEED JESUS

Jesus was making his mission PUBLIC from the start!

Luke 4:18-19 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

-They Threw him out of town!

-Jesus got called out for spending time with Zacchaeus and his friends:

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

-And Again with Matthew:

Matthew 9:10-13 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

JESUS TOLD US OUR MISSION!

Mark 16:15-18 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

Context: these were signs that people claiming to be the Messiah would do to show they had “Special Powers”

John 14:12-14 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

-He will give us everything we need to do HIS Mission!

-That is why he gave us power through His Spirit!

John 14:15-16 (Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit) “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:25-26 “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

WE ARE A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH!

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

OUR MISSION IS CLEAR.....

WE ARE HIS BEACON OF HOPE

Matt 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Light shine.....good works

Good works don't get us into heaven.....they show a bit of Jesus in us!

MY PERSONAL WORD FOR 2024 is “GAP”

Ezekiel 22:30 "I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one.

Context: Spiritual darkness! Sin was abounding!

-God's wrath was brewing because spiritual leaders were corrupt!

-He was looking for someone to stand in the gap!

DEEP CALLING OF SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITY!

Gap is the space between where we are and where we want to be.

I believe we are in a spiritual battle! SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS REAL!

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

PEOPLE ARE BOUND AND TIED UP!!

True freedom comes through Jesus!

*I FEEL A SPIRITUAL BURDEN FOR PRAYER & FASTING!

-GAP!

James 5:16 The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

THERE IS ADDITIONAL POWER IN FASTING....

Isaiah 58:6-9 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

AGAIN.....I FEEL A DEEP SPIRITUAL CALLING TO STAND IN THE GAP!

-WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE!

Ephesians 1:20-21 He exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Colossians 1:16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Jesus reigns over Heaven & Earth!

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Listen again to our mission:

Matt 28:18-20 ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

HOW TO STAND IN THE GAP?

PRAY AND FAST

When you pray for people.....your heart softens and you catch the heart of God!

Luke 15 (The Parable of the Lost Sheep) Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

MORE REJOICING OVER THE ONE LOST ONE FOUND THAN OVER THE 99 RIGHTEOUS!

Story of Lost Sheep, Lost Coin.....LOST SON!

- the youngest of 2 sons asked for his inheritance.
- he rebelled and lost all his money on wild living
- he is now feeding pigs to try to get some food

-but he finally came home!

-And the Father was waiting!

-Didn't even let him finish his apology and threw him a huge party!

BUT LISTEN TO THIS: (Older son would get double inheritance)

Luke 15:25-32 ²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.’ ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

It is so easy to get a religious spirit! We are all susceptible to it.

-We forget the Amazing grace we have been given!

AS WE STAND IN THE GAP.....IT KEEPS OUR HEART SOFT!

JOIN ME IN PRAYER!

- Pray for people in your life
- Pray for opportunities to share Jesus
- Pray for a burden for people!

- PRAY FOR NEEDS!
- Consider FASTING
- Pray for a grateful heart!

COMMUNION:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Philippians 1:3-11 I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.