

VICTORY VOICE OF THE KINGDOM

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 – JAN/FEB/MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement:
Building bridges to establish relationships to advance Christ kingdom.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Articles by the Pastors
- Article by Pastor George
- Bible Studies

God's New Thing This Year!



Eric Susberry
Pastor

Looking forward to 2022, I am reminded of one of my favorite passages of encouragement for hard and trying times, Isaiah 43:16-21.

For the sake of writing space, I will not write out the scriptures. However, let me paraphrase it;

verses 16-17: "He will make a way in the wilderness."

Verses 18-19: "Do not remember the former things, behold I will do a new thing."

Verse 20: "even the beast of the fields are smarter and more aware of what I am doing to sustain and bless all of life."

The prophet Isaiah urges the people to forget the former things and behold the new ways that God is changing and renewing in their lives for a greater good!

But for them to see the

new thing God is doing, they must open their eyes to see God.

Often our hearts and minds are so clouded by failures, mistakes, and negative memories of our past that we are clouded and slowed down from realizing a fresh encounter with God.

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Building Community in Our Church Pt2



Caren Susberry
Assistant Pastor

In our last issue I talked about building community in our church. Community involves people connecting with one another. When there is community in a church it creates a feeling of belonging; where people know, love & accept you in spite of your shortcomings.

It's the feeling that you are supported and a part of something bigger than

yourself.

This is how the early church functioned. They had everything in common.

Acts 4:32 reveals that the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

They worked together, worshipped together and shared with whoever had a need.

Not everyone was required to do this, but there was a man named Barnabas, a Levite of the country of

Cyprus who sold his land and bought the proceeds and laid it at the Apostles feet. His connection was clearly seen.

This was the heart of Jesus before He left earth to go back to the Father, He prayed that they all may be one (connected), as You, Father are in Me and I in You; that they also may be one in Us...(Acts 17:21a). The early church had become a great community.

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God's New Thing...cont.

God says through the prophet, "I am making a way in the desert".

Now, the desert is a lonely place where you can lose your direction from the heat, dryness, fatigue, loneliness, hallucinations, and mirages. But God says, "I will make a way for you in the desert and lead you to fertile ground.

Secondly, God is also doing a new thing by making a way in the wasteland.

A wasteland is a place without fresh water. It is a place where dreams, desires, and goals waste away. We are living in a time where people are so afraid and fearful by the horrors and problems all around that they have resolved to be

pessimistic about everything, everybody, and life itself, because they can't see God doing a new thing.

If only they would look up at God and His faithful promises, they could move forward in faith, receiving freshly watered places that God created for their renewal: places like church prayer, church attendance, church volunteerism, and church caring for others and not always our self-interest.

Thirdly, God says "the wild animals honor me because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland. In translation, if wild animals can perceive and acknowledge what God is doing, why can't we!

Here's the best news for us

as we move forward into 2022 – God sent His Son Jesus to this wasteland of ours, to give us hope, joy, spiritual prosperity, and a host of other blessings.

God looked over the world and saw what a waste we had made things and decided to see things right. Jesus not only did a new thing years ago, but He is also doing a fresh new thing right now!

And yes, problems still exist, but God says look up and perceive this year is going to be filled with new and exciting things.

"Behold I will do a new thing" saith the Lord.

Building...cont.

We are a community of believers working together on a common mission-- *to building bridges to establish relationships to advance Christ's Kingdom.*

If community involves people connecting, the question is; what can we do to ensure that people feel welcomed and connect with our church?

I want to suggest 5 ways we can work to build community and get people connected in our church.

1. As they are developing, invite them to small groups such as: Sunday Bible school

classes, Grief Share, New Members class, Elevate, Youth, or a special interest class. Ministry teams like dance can function as a small group too.

2. Train small group leaders to do the work of pastoral ministry.

3. Take time to fellowship with one another. Don't run out the door after service. Greet our visitors and your brothers and sisters in Christ.

4. Take time to reach out and care about someone else. Show hospitality. Invite someone out for lunch or over to your house

for dinner. Enjoy a time of fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

5. Pastors, Ministers, & leaders must set a good example. We have to be the first to show up and show an interest in the people God sends through the doors of our church.

Building community is not easy. It will require deliberate effort on our part—all of us: Pastors, Ministers, leaders, and laypersons. Building community will require love, time, money, and selflessness.

"Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common."

Acts 4:32
NKJV

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Don't Miss Your Window of Opportunity

~Pastor George Reed~

It is crucial to recognize windows of opportunity God has opened for Him to demonstrate His power through your life.

In the world we are living in right now with a global pandemic going on, people are having questions and looking for answers. It's so important for our spiritual eyes of discernment to be open.

The worst feeling in the world is God telling someone to do something and they pass on it, missing their window of opportunity.

The fact of the matter is that we are essential to each other. God wants to use you as an instrument to bless someone else's life.

Sometimes the main purpose of your trial is for you to have a testimony for someone else who will go through that exact same thing. When we open our spiritual eyes, we will see the opportunities are endless.

With so many people transitioning from this world, it is vital for us to tell everyone we know about Jesus Christ.

All it takes is one little spark to get the fire going. I'm reminded of how a stove works when you are turning on the oven to preheat it, you will hear the clicking noise of the stove trying to create a spark for the gas to ignite the flames.

For us, our spark is showing love to our neighbor by giving to someone in need. That opens the conversation to tell them

about Christ. Another spark can be simply calling and checking on your loved ones to see how they are doing during these troubling times.

God's fire is contagious. The spark you light in someone else's life causes people to want to spread the same love to others.

The worst thing to do is to stand still when God says go. Think about the lifeline monitor in a hospital. The needle is going up and down signifying you will have some hills and valleys.

If the line is not leveled out, there is life in your body. Use every moment you can. Don't miss your window of opportunity!

Dear Mother Eunice, can you be saved and cuss a little?

First of all, anytime you start a question with 'can you be saved and...' you're probably better off not doing whatever it is that you want to do. But let's take a minute to look at what the Bible says about cursing.

For me, there are three passages of scripture that come to mind regarding this topic: (a) James 3: 6-12 discusses the power of the tongue stating, "With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."; (b) Proverbs 18:21 states that "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."; and (c) 1 Corinthians 10:23 states "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify."

Taking these scriptures into consideration, we learn that the words that exit your mouth have great power. In them is life and death and blessings and cursing. And more than that, they should reflect the God that you serve. So, let me ask you a few questions: Are your words producing life? Are they pronouncing blessing? Are others being edified? Do your words reflect your salvation? Hopefully your answers to these questions will answer your own question.

Grief Share Weekly Classes Are Back!

Begins February 15th 2022

7p to 9pm

To register go to www.griefshare.org

And enter zip code: 60652

call for more details (779) 333-0773

Weekly Bible Studies

**Young Adult
Elevate Bible Study**



**Every Thursday at
7pm on Zoom!**

**Children's Ministry
Bible Study**



**Every Monday at
6pm on Zoom!**

**Teen's Ministry
Living Proof Bible Study**



**Every Wednesday at
7pm at church!**

*Please contact the church for more information regarding all electronic meetings; answering service is 24/7.

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VICTORY IN CHRIST KINGDOM CHURCH

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We're on the Web!

victoryinchristkingdom.org

Twitter: @ecctoday

Facebook: Victory in Christ Kingdom

Please visit us!

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Service*

at: 8:00 am
at: 10:00 am

Midweek Service

Wednesday at 7pm

*The Nursery & Children's church is open during Sunday 10a service.

Want to Know More About Our Church?



Praise God we paid off our church in 2019 and now we can do some much needed repairs to our church building! Don't forget to finish your Building Fund Pledge!

**Coming in 2022:
Bookstore**

Baptism Sundays!

**4th Sunday of the
Month**

Begins March 27th

Weekly Intercessory Prayer Schedule:

1st and 3rd Tuesday
Morning Prayer
10:00am - 11:00am

Every Tuesday
Evening Prayer 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Prayer Conference Call

Every Friday
Men's Prayer
7:30pm - 9:30pm
At Church

Every Saturday
7:00am - 8:30am
At Church While Maintaining
Social Distancing Guidelines

Fast Day Every Tuesday
Fast until Noon

Sunday Bible School classes are temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We hope to see you once classes resume!



***Victory in Christ Kingdom
a place where you can
walk in total success in
all areas of your life!***

Attention All Men!

Please park across the street from the church so all ladies, children and visitors can have easier access to church services.
Thank you