

THE CHURCH IS LEAVING THE BUILDING!

2018 Purpose Statement

First Sunday Of Each Month Will Focus On This Theme

ATTENTION:

- (Must Leave The Building)
 - **The baseball player must leave the dugout to play the game**
 - **The soldier must leave camp enter the battle**
 - **The caterpillar must leave the cocoon fly as a butterfly**
 - The Christian must leave the building in order to have the necessary impact on the world around us!
 - The Christian must leave the building while remaining first and foremost a Christian!
- The church is often experienced by others as a closed system
 - To many the church - irrelevant to their lives!
 - Yet we were created to experience the worship of God and the community of fellow believers, living with the insights of scripture - part of our original DNA!
 - VERY RELEVANT TO FULNESS OF LIFE!
 - To others the church - ONLY FOR INSIDERS!
 - Instead of being critical of our friends and family that don't worship God, we would do better to acknowledge that the faith, church and the Bible can feel uninviting!
 - The church isn't very inviting sometimes.
 - Sometimes we keep the Good News to ourselves.
 - It's not that we want people to stay on the outside
 - But we haven't been overly active in sharing the Gospel
 - God wants everyone to experience His love, grace and peace
 - WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO THINK THE CHURCH IS JUST FOR INSIDERS!

ATTUNE:

How do we get the message across that the church is for everyone?

- We must be warm/welcoming to our guests.
 - **WITH THE CHURCH – THERE ARE NO OUTSIDERS!**
- The church must LEAVE THE BUILDING and invite them in!
 - In the parable of the great banquet...

²³ "Then the master told the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and make them come in, so that my house may be filled.'

Luke 14:23

- If the world is to know that church is relevant, and that they are welcomed inside, then the church/Christians must **LEAVE THE BUILDING** to show/tell them so!

All along God has intended for the church to leave the building!

- The Christian is sent by Jesus to LEAVE THE BUILDING and "go" to the unchurched telling them the Good News!

Jesus said to his followers, **GO into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.** Mark 16:15

- Someone has to invite those folks to consider Jesus
 - Sharing the Good News about Jesus starts outside the building.
 - The **CHURCH MUST LEAVE THE BUILDING** on MISSION!

BODY: TRANSITION:

3 steps to God's plan for THE CHURCH TO LEAVE THE BUILDING

I. INCLUDE EVERYONE!

- God's plan is for Christians to **LEAVE THE BUILDING** and go to everyone.
 - Leave no stone unturned in seeking people to tell the Good News about Jesus
 - We don't know to whom God has been speaking.

Matthew 28:19; Luke 24:47 all nations

Mark 16:15 all creations

Luke 14:23 Go out into the highways and hedges and make them come in, so that my house may be filled

Colossians 4:5-6 ⁵ Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

1 Peter 3:15 in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

- Just because they are on the outside of the church doesn't mean that's where God wants them to stay!
 - God's wants them to come to Him
 - He wants them to be a part of His church.
 - See everyone as a potential Christ follower.
 - Christ's church is not exclusive – it's inclusive!
 - Everyone is welcome!
 - All are encouraged to receive God's grace - mercy - love.

²⁸ "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

God's plan for THE CHURCH TO LEAVE THE BUILDING is for us to go to everyone!

II. HAVE GOD CONFIDENCE!

- Christians often believe they're not good enough, knowledgeable enough, influential enough to LEAVE THE BUILDING on MISSION! .
 - Paul even shared this feeling to a degree!

⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ Ephesians 3:8

- Paul's confidence was in God's power working through his faith!

Paul Trusted & God empowered!

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

The where-with-all to share the Good News with others comes from God!

God's plan for THE CHURCH TO LEAVE THE BUILDING is for us to go to everyone, having God confidence

PROJECT:

Louis Pasteur, the pioneer of immunology, lived at a time when thousands of people died each year of rabies. Pasteur had worked for years on a vaccine. Just as he was about to begin experimenting on himself, a 9-year-old, Joseph Meister, was bitten by a rabid dog. The boy's mother begged Pasteur to experiment on her son. Pasteur injected Joseph for ten days--and the boy lived.

Decades later, of all the things Pasteur could have had etched on his headstone, he asked for three words: JOSEPH MEISTER LIVED.

Our greatest legacy will be those who live eternally because of our efforts.

ACTION:

The biggest thing you will ever do with your Christian life is to leave this building, and go to the unchurched and show/tell them the Good News about Jesus!

INVITE THEM ALL IN WITH THE CONFIDENCE THAT GOD IS WITH YOU AND WORKING THROUGH YOU!