

It could be called the MCV, the Man-Centered Version. However, it would certainly be too narrow-minded because many would want the freedom to choose their own scriptures. So there needs to be the “Pick and Choose Version,” or PCV for short. In fact, roll with me here, like the Build a Bear Workshop, you could have a Build a Bible Workshop. That way everyone can have their own personal version with their unique creative touches. Just one more reference to man making God in his own image.

The Kingdom of God is what Jesus came to establish and the Bible is it’s Playbook, the Instruction Manuel. While portions of the Church has not always held to its truths and misinterpreted its values, often for its own purposes, it remains God’s inerrant rule for faith and practice. The Kingdom of God affirms every person as being made in the image of God. Jesus came to redeem that image and restore blessing and favor to every human being in this Fallen world. Jesus preached and planted His Kingdom on earth and authenticated its dominion and existence through His death and resurrection. Satan was defeated. All people who believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ are saved and enfolded into the Family of God.

“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” (Heb. 2:11-12) Wow! The King of the Kingdom has called us brothers and sisters. His intention is that we are in a deep loving relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as, with all of our other brothers and sisters from all people groups. There is a spirit driving division in our day. The Kingdom of God is not divided! It’s time for Kingdom Hearts to Unite!

If you have received Jesus as your Savior and Lord, been filled with His Spirit, uphold the Kingdom mandates of Scripture and embrace the family of God then you are totally “Woke.” (Meaning, you are alert and aware of social injustice.) Kingdom-hearted people are “woke folk.” We are aware, intercede and intervene for the marginalized,

oppressed and lost among all peoples. I’ve said before, we interpret life through the lens of our history, experience and culture. Anger, hate and disassociation are not of the Kingdom. We need to get the Kingdom, the absolute reign of Jesus through Holy Spirit, in our core. We need understanding of and obedience to the Scriptures. Our minds must be renewed by the Spirit to be Kingdom-minded. We must embrace the real-life model of Jesus. *“Christ, is the image of God.” (II Cor. 4:4) “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.” (Heb. 1:3)*

Study the Gospels and pay close attention to how Jesus interacted with people. There were the rich and poor, leprous and disabled (socially untouchable/spiritually unclean), the immoral and the demon-possessed, Jew and gentile (racially diverse), men and women. He welcomed each one with equal attention and concern. While buried under their sin, bondage and dysfunction, He saw the person. He was mindful that the Divine Design of the image of God was in them regardless of who they were and what they had done. **Jesus saw the person, and the person knew they were seen by Him.** He sought to redeem the Innate Image.

The Apostle Paul twice succinctly emphasized the equality and unity of the Family of God. Note the language: *“Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ’s life, (God’s Image) the fulfillment of God’s original promise. ...In Christ’s family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ.” (Gal. 3:26-28) “Now you’re dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.” (Col. 3:10-11)*

United Kingdom Family Reflects Christ to the World!

Platte City, MO 64079

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June 2021

“On the Road Again” for Jesus!



The Bridge



The Firehouse Churches



Journey of Grace



El Encuentro (The Encounter)



Travel restrictions due to Covid limited in-person ministry touches for awhile, but now doors are open and invitations are coming. I (Dallas Elder) was blessed to minister in late April at The Bridge Central-Lake Wales, FL with Pastors Buddy and Chrissie Collins. God continues to move that congregation forward in strength and impact.

In May, I was invited to serve at Journey of Grace in Clearwater, FL under the leadership of Pastor Patty Elder. This three-year-old church plant has legs! They actually increased during the pandemic. They have a solid core group and emerging leaders. They are looking for more facility to expand ministry.

Following our GCI conference in March, I had the opportunity to meet Pastor Polo Delacruz who was a contact of GCI Missionaries Antonio and Graciela Chavez. He is the pastor of El Encuentro-Topeka, KS. We got acquainted and he invited me to preach the first Sunday in June. This Hispanic church is a beautiful, growing faith family and is changing lives through the redemptive power of Jesus. Pastor Polo is a passionate and gifted Kingdom minister with a committed ministry team.

In April I visited Pastor Kevin Clancey and The Firehouse Churches-Silverdale and Bremerton, WA. There I had opportunity to not only preach and minister to those congregations, but to water baptize my nephew, Jason Cline. The Firehouse Church-Silverdale was greatly accommodating and supportive of this memorable faith commitment in Jesus. After several months of shutdown in the Northwest, church folks are personally reengaging.



Rob and Lori are pictured with Pastor George Kissei and a few church members at their home church in Accra, Ghana.

Benin Vision Becoming Reality



In many respects this project has been a long road. First of all, there was a vision for a GCI church in Cotonou, the capital city of Benin-West Africa. It took time to find the land, purchase the land and title the land. Pastor Roland and his team connected with people in the community and a small congregation formed. Then it began to grow. (They currently meet in a school.) The congregation cleared the land. The cement blocks were hand made (more economical). Then construction began. We are now at this stage. The roof is needed. This church building will house the congregation, be a light-house, and a spiritual shelter for the lost and hurting in the community. The project has been a series of steps of faith. We are grateful for God's provision, the prayers and the labor of many. Now we're believing God for His resources to complete the roof. It would enable the congregation to meet in the building while other phases are completed. Donations for this specific project may be given online at www.VisionVestor.org which is our ministry dedicated to meeting practical needs in the Name of Jesus. Our remaining need for the roof is \$2400. Let us know if you or your church would like to help. **Together we are gaining Kingdom ground!**

The Merge of Life and Ministry

Life and ministry are enfolded into each other. One doesn't stop to allow for the other. You have to find the balance of giving attention to both. Rob and Lori Mangus were in the US to attend our GCI Ministry Conference 2021 in March. They had just returned to Ghana navigating through all of the Covid protocol for their reentry, when Lori learned that her Mother's cancer had taken a sudden turn for the worse and was given a short time to live. Lori then made plans to get home quickly as Rob stayed behind in Ghana. Unfortunately, Lori's Mom (Loneta) passed a couple days before Lori arrived. However, Lori got to join family as they processed through the loss and had a celebration of life service. Lori's Dad (James) passed away unexpectedly a year earlier. As for all of us, there is the work God calls us to do and personal life issues that we need to address. No doubt at times, it can seem overwhelming. God's grace and the support of brothers and sisters in Christ enable us to manage through difficult times. Recently, Lori went through all of the Covid regimens again, returned to Ghana to join Rob, and reengage the ministry. Certainly, she carries a heavy heart with her. We are grateful for the prayers and support on behalf of the Lori, Rob and their family. Your continued prayers are appreciated.

Pastor Roland informed us that his Mother passed away in May. Our condolences and prayers go out to him and his family. We are grateful for the good work that he does for the Kingdom and as a GCI leader overseeing churches in Benin and Togo (with Pastor Sonte.)

GCI Midyear Ministry Conference August 16-18, 2021

Make your plans to attend our Midyear Conference. It will begin Monday evening, August 16 concluding Tuesday evening, August 17. Only the Exec. Board meets on Wednesday. The location is LifePoint Church Oakdale, CA.

The West Coast Ministry Leaders Retreat will immediately follow the conference. The dates are Wednesday-Friday, August 18-20.

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Conference Speakers



Barry Clair is the Lead Pastor of Tiffany Fellowship Church in Kansas City, MO. He's taught on Leadership and Preaching in conferences in several nations. His passion is to see lives transformed by the power of God's Word and to train ministers to maximize their ministry potential.



Darrell Jones is the President of the Stanley M. Herzog Charitable Foundation which strengthens Christian education across the nation. He served as Senior Pastor at Grace Evangelical Church-St. Joseph, MO for 23 years. He is an infectious communicator and "out of the box" leader who equips believers to creatively engage people for Christ.



Mary McDonald is Lead Pastor of Holsey Chapel in St. Joseph, MO. She has also served in the marketplace as a business professional with an international company. She is a strong and wise Christian leader and anointed preacher. She serves on the Executive Board of GCI.



Rusty Savage has been pastor of First Baptist-Platte City, MO for 30 years. His passion is to see people enter into life-changing relationships with God. As a long-tenured pastor, he believes the local church is to be the environment for spiritual transformation in Christ.



Dallas Elder is the Director of Grace Covenant International and the Ministry Skills Institute of Platte City, MO. His work areas include: apostolic shepherding, ministry training, leadership coaching, church planting, and foreign missions development. He is the author of *The ValueGiver: The HeArt of Receiving and Giving True Worth*.

Kingdom Hearts Unite!

By Dallas Elder

There's an old saying that goes, "You can't tell the players without the program." I think it applies in our environment today. There are a lot of new terms being tossed around: ex-vangelical, deconstruction of faith, Universal Jesus to name few. There is a rebellion against what the Scripture says about moral sins. There are claims that Orthodox Christianity at its core is bigoted, disadvantages people of color and suppresses women. While there is clear history of ungodly missteps, misappropriations and misconduct in segments of the Church that would support the claims, it is important to separate fact from fiction. The Church is not always a true representation of the Kingdom of God. Agenda driven religious people try to put their own bend on its shape. Voltaire said succinctly: "If God has made us in his image, we have returned him the favor." The church has often resembled more of the image of humanity than the image of Christ. People have lived by what Juan Carlos Ortiz calls the "Fifth Gospel." People cut and paste their favored passages from the other four to make their "own gospel." They ignore and disregard scriptures they cannot accept and commandments they refuse to obey. This "Fifth Gospel" could get significant traction in today's cultural climate. *~Continued next page*

"Stir It Up" Seminar Wed. Sept. 22 9am-3pm

Leaders need to be continually revived in the their spirits and strengthened in their skills. This one-day seminar features interactive equipping and encouraging sessions facilitated by ministry leaders: Dallas Elder, Mary McDonald and Rusty Savage. It's geared to "stir you up" for stronger and more confident Kingdom ministry. There is "fresh bread" being prepared for you in these sessions. Come and get some!!!

Conference Workshops Thurs.-Sat. Sept. 23-25

REDEEMING THE IMAGE OF GOD

► Dallas Elder

"...Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." (Col. 3:10) This workshop explores the implications of God's image in us. It is the quest for our identity, the lens from which we can view our authentic self and genuinely affirm others. The supreme objective of Jesus was to redeem the image of God in humanity.

LEADING AND PREACHING IN A CANCEL CULTURE

► Barry Clair

Often, the teachings of Jesus and the Bible deviate from current accepted cultural norms. When messengers of the Gospel present a faithful witness to it, they are accused of promoting hate and offensive ideologies. In this session, Pastors and Church leaders will learn to lead and preach in a culture that is condemning and un-redemptive. They will learn to avoid the missteps and ambushes of Cancel Culture.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY ► Darrell Jones

The three sessions of this workshop will address how the local church can engage and impact its community for Christ.

- 1) A Biblical Model of Community Mission.
- 2) How the Missional Church Engages the Community.
- 3) Exploring New Horizons of Ministry

Apostle Pam Brown ministering Thurs. evening: "God Breathed"

Register through office or at www.MSIgc.com