

IMPROVING OUR SERVE, PART 1

OPEN: We have returned from the land of Costa Rica, the Salley family (our missionaries) are working hard and doing well.

- ✓ We held 4 medical clinics, saw over 1000 people of which 250 made a positive response to the Gospel.
- ✓ Contact information was left in the hands of local pastors who will follow up in the weeks ahead.
- ✓ Going on a mission trip allows a team to focus their time and attention on advancing the work (ministry) that is in place...like cultivating and planting a field...the harvest will follow.
 - Lamar... “much is accomplished in these 4 days and they will reap the benefit for months...”
 - Thank you as a church for your investment of \$10,000 (General Missions...meds, glasses, and getting them to location).
 - Thank you to the team who each paid or raised through donations \$1,450 to cover their cost (airline tickets, food, lodging, and travel/bus to transport team).
 - The total investment...over \$30,000...you would be proud of the team...they/we worked hard.

❖ The challenge is returning to the “norm”...the demands of life are many and can distract us from God’s call.

- ✓ We are not just to go on mission trips, we are to be “on mission” with God.

1) **MOTIVATED BY HIS LOVE.** *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

❖ Quick reminder of how God feels about you:

- **John 3:16 (NLT)** – For this is how much God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.
- God demonstrated His love for people...sends Jesus.
 - **Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT)** - ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)
- God extends (offers) mercy to those dead in sin.
 - **1 Timothy 2:4-6 (NLT)** – God... ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵ For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. ⁶ He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.
- Jesus makes it possible for us to be made right with God through faith...(put your trust in Christ).
- ❖ The good news is: God the Creator desires a close relationship (friendship) with those He created after His image...
 - Satan tried to spoil the plan but God not willing to let us go and He made provision for our rescue.
- It is the love of God that compels us (motivate us) to know Him and live our lives to glorify Him.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:14 (NKJV)** – for the love of Christ compels us...KJV says **constrains us...**(to hold together, compress).
 - **1 John 4:19 (NKJV)** – We love Him because He first loved us.
 - Serving out of “duty” gets old and bothersome but for a friendship to flourish you spend time together.

❖ Grace and mercy are God’s love language to you...but what is God’s love language...or how do we show God we love Him?

✓ He is all powerful and perfect and doesn’t need our grace and mercy.

✓ We “spell love” 4 letters = “O B E Y.”

1 John 5:1-3 (NLT) - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. ² We know we love God’s children if we love God and obey His commandments. ³ Loving God means keeping His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.

➤ Obeying God and loving others is how we demonstrate our love for God.

2) **PARTICIPATE IN HIS FAMILY**. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

❖ But how? If we are to accomplish God’s plan for our lives we must realize that we need one another.

Scripture tells us to:

- Love one another, help one another, pray for one another, encourage one another, hold each other accountable.
- The larger a church grows the more impersonal it becomes, so how do you connect...build friendships with others? Through small groups...((Life Groups, Home Groups, Step Studies, Spiritual Spotters, Men’s and Ladies Bible studies...)).

❖ Can I talk strategy with you for a few minutes?

a) **What people are looking for:**

- Do I fit here? This is a question of **acceptance**. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*
- Does anybody want to know me? This is a question of **friendship**. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*
- Am I needed? This is a question of **value**. *(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)*

- What is the advantage of joining this group? This is a question of **benefit**.
(Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)
- What is expected of me if I join this group? This is a question of **expectations**. (Pro Presenter Slide Bulletin Outline)

b) What are your options and opportunities?

- For a list of on-going life and home groups pick up a flyer at Connection Point.
 - We begin a 6-week Church-Wide study on the book of James September 9...we complete the study on October 28 (Anniversary Sunday)...to include a Loving Lexington Day (September 30) and tailgating event (October 14).
 - For those who have not found a group consider “trying out” one of the groups in the Fellowship Hall. **(POWER POINT PICTURE OF FELLOWSHIP HALL)**
 - o Pastor Reynold will teach the lesson (20 minutes) followed by group discussion.
 - o Looking for 6 to 8 “group facilitators” at 9AM and 10:30AM (sign up on “tear away”).
 - o If you like your group you may decide to continue on...if the group facilitator returns to their Life/Home Group you could invite folks to go with you.
 - o If you choose a “one and done” other groups will be offered in the Winter (January).
- ❖ The goal is not just information but transformation. I hope you will join in on the study:
- ✓ Faith Lift James study:
 - Pain and Problems are an Opportunity for Joy.
 - Dealing with Temptation.
 - True Faith Leads to Change.

- True Faith Leads to Social Action.
- Taming our Tongues.
- Becoming a Praying People.

- ❖ I won't overwhelm you with details...wanted to provide enough information so you know what we are doing.
- ❖ Let's spend the rest of our time worshipping God who demonstrated His love for us.

Read **1 Corinthians 11:23-34** (I'll read from my Bible)

- Examine, confess and renew your fellowship with God...prayer time.
- Take of the Lord's Supper:
 - ✓ Pass out bread: **Mark 14:22 (NLT)** - As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body."
 - ✓ Pass out cup: **Mark 14:23-25 (NLT)** - ²³ And He took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ And He said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and His people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. ²⁵ I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God."
 - ✓ **Mark 14:26 (NLT)** - Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. Sing a hymn.

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Message Notes
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