

Celebrating Impact for the King As a Community of Faith

Thesis: We are a people who partner with Jesus on his mission, together with others, in our spheres of influence and in the earth.

Text: *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).*

Today, I want us to catch a glimpse of the impact we are having in the earth for King Jesus as we partner with him for the kingdom of God. It is a time to celebrate and to cast vision.

Celebrating impact:

1. **Children's Ministry:**
 - a. Our Children's Ministry is impacting the lives of children and families who need to know the love of God through Jesus and his people.
 - b. I am so grateful for Becky Gressett, our Children's Pastor and for our Children's Ministry Team and volunteers.
2. **Student Ministry:**
 - a. Our Student Ministry is touching teens with the transformational power of our Living God.
 - b. I am so grateful for Jane Winne, our Youth Pastor, and for our Student Ministries Council and adult volunteers.
3. **Journey Groups:**
 - a. Journey groups are our first line of pastoral care and ministry at Calvary.
 - b. Journey Groups are one of the primary places where we express true Christian community, growing in our capacity for authenticity.
 - c. I am so proud of how our groups care for one another and for others in our community, especially in this season of pandemic and challenge.
 - d. And, I am so grateful for Margaret Petry, our Small Group Pastor and Volunteer Coordinator.
4. **Hairgrove Partnership** Team: changing the trajectory of children for good.
 - a. Calvary joined with Copperfield Church in a partnership to serve Hairgrove Elementary. Our efforts reflect the Whole and Healthy Children Emphasis for Greater Houston. Caring adults can make a difference in the lives of staff and students in the public arena through mentoring, volunteering, praying, and giving. We long to see

transformation in our community. Changing the lives of children, equipping mentors to become change agents, and doing acts of Christ-centered goodness (Acts 10:38) will help us toward our goal of personal and community transformation.

- b. Here are some ways that we serve in this partnership: mentoring children; providing holiday meals for families and meals for events; providing for the clothing drive and book drives; serving through teacher appreciation opportunities; and volunteering for other opportunities as identified by the staff at Hairgrove.
 - c. Patti Ressler is an amazing liaison for our team, causing our efforts to impact lives in a multiplied way.
5. **[Pastor Steve's Prophetic Life Workshop classes:](#)**
- a. Pastor Steve is such a gift to us. He continues to serve Calvary and beyond with his anointed leadership and significant prophetic gifting.
 - b. His Wednesday night classes are full of wisdom, revelation, and impartation.
 - c. Right now, he continues to serve the church at large as Interim Pastor at Willow Church, Lake Jackson.
6. **[Sending and pastoring missionaries around the world:](#)**
- a. Calvary supports various ministries and missionaries who serve to reach people groups throughout the earth. We partner with them in our prayers, partnership, and finances.
 - i. **[Calvary Missions Supporter Response Card.](#)**
 1. **David Carter:** Release the Kingdom Ministries, ministering revival, renewal, and refreshing to people
 2. **Daniel and Marlene DeJesus:** prison ministry, discipleship, and evangelism
 3. **Eric and Wendy:** Beyond Ministry, reaching the unreached in Asia
 4. **Ana:** Ministering Cross Culturally in Europe
 5. **Gene and Rene' Haub:** FamilyLife Ministries, strengthening marriages and the family around the world
 6. **Chase and Megan:** Restricted Nation, reaching the unreached
 7. **Angela Petry:** International House of Prayer
 8. **Michael Newman:** Christian Coalition for Reconciliation, ministering wholeness to those who struggle with their sexual identity; evangelism
 9. **Kathy Vosburg-Miller:** [CrossWalk Center](#), Houston's hopeful and seamless re-entry discipleship process from the inside out for those who have been imprisoned

- ii. **Ways to give.**
 1. [Give online](#).
 2. Give through the **Ministry One App**.
 3. Give at one of our worship services. Please make your check payable to Calvary Missions, place it in a giving envelope, indicate what your gift is for, and place it in the offering basket.
 4. Print out the [Calvary Missions Supporter Response Card](#), fill in the information, use a credit card or enclose a check, and mail it back to Calvary.
- b. Calvary is involved in **reaching unreached people groups** in Asia, Europe, Middle East, Latin America, and Africa.
7. **Myanmar.** Today, I want to highlight the needs in Myanmar and invite you to pray about **giving to support the Immanuel Calvary Church Missionaries and Church Planters in Myanmar**.
 - a. Thank you for stepping up last year to help to support the Immanuel Calvary Church Missionaries and Church Planters in Myanmar with their monthly support.
 - b. You are helping us to meet a significant opportunity before us.
 - c. We support about 30 missionaries, church planters, and pastors on the ICC team which works with Pastor John Cung to reach the unreached in Myanmar.
 - d. As you know, the nation of Myanmar has suffered under the terror of the Myanmar Military since February 2021.
 - e. Even in the midst of crisis, Calvary has been giving \$100 per family for more than 10 years to help these indigenous missionaries reach their communities and villages for Jesus.
 - f. We have sought to increase that amount to \$150 per family per month.
 - g. **And, we are looking for people who can give any amount to help these missionaries, either on a monthly basis or through an annual gift.**
 - h. Our goal is to raise \$1,800 per missionary for the year in order to fund the missionaries and ministries of the ICC Team in Myanmar. That works out to \$150 per month.
 - i. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity and how you can help.
 - j. Please contact me if you have any thoughts or questions.
 - k. If you [give online](#) or using some other means, please indicate that your gift is for **Myanmar Designated Gifts** in our Missions Sub-Fund.
8. **Partnering with missions and ministries locally and globally:**
 - a. [Somebody Cares](#), Doug Stringer.
 - i. The Somebody Cares mission is to let people know that Somebody Cares. Because Jesus cares, we the Church care. As a

result, through grassroots efforts, communities are being transformed and the Church is uniting. This is unity with a purpose. We mobilize Christians into evangelism, thereby transforming communities. We seek to identify ministries that empower people to reach their full potential and become all that God envisioned when He created them.

- ii. The foundational ministries of SCA include prayer initiatives, compassion evangelism, disaster response, and leadership development.
- b. [Greater Houston Prayer Council](#): seeking to facilitate perpetual prayer across Greater Houston. The Greater Houston Prayer Council is a Christ-centered and Christ-dependent collaborative existing to unite the Body of Christ in effectual, perpetual prayer and action so that all may come to know in their hearts the love of Jesus poured out through the Holy Spirit unto the glory of God, our Father.
- c. [Union Baptist Association](#): sending pathways; church planting; church renewal through replanting, and revitalization. UBA is a collaborative network of churches focused on the strategic advance of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- d. [India Gospel Outreach](#), Valson Abraham: seeking to plant churches in each of India's 28,000+ postal codes.
- e. [Faithwalking](#): making wholeness possible. Faithwalking is a spiritual formation process where people are increasingly following the way of Jesus, experiencing ongoing transformation, and developing effective practices for missional living: serving the poor, the marginalized, and those in need; working for the common good; and restoring individuals, social systems, communities, and nations to God's intended design.
- f. [Loving Houston](#): advancing community transformation by helping churches serve local schools.
- g. [International House of Prayer](#) (IHOPKC): The IHOPKC community exists to partner in the Great Commission by advancing 24/7 prayer with worship and proclaiming the beauty of Jesus and His glorious return.
- h. [Ministers Prayer Network](#) International. Apostle Mosy Madugba is a lifelong friend and international coordinator of MPN, which is an apostolic and prophetic network impacting the nations through prayer, equipping, evangelism, and missions.
- i. **Northwest Pastors in Prayer**, our Senior Pastors' Prayer Group. This group has met since 1998 to pray and share together in order to promote unity, celebrate diversity, and create harmony among the churches in NW Houston.
- j. **And many other missionaries, ministries, and organizations locally and globally.**

Partnering with Jesus on his mission in the earth.

1. **Our missional identity:** we are a people who partner with Jesus on his mission, together with others, in our spheres of influence and in the earth.
 - a. Serving the poor, the marginalized, and those in need,
 - b. Working for the common good,
 - c. And seeking to restore individuals, social systems, communities, and nations to God's design.
2. **Our vision at Calvary is a mental model of transformation.** It expresses how God transforms us.
 - a. **Establishing people in intimacy with God.**
 - i. God is perfectly at home in Jesus. *"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).*
 - ii. Jesus is our model, showing us how God wants to be at home in us. *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority (Colossians 2:9-10).*
 - iii. The core outcome of intimacy is to grow in our capacity for **awareness** of God.
 - iv. **As we spend time with the Lord, we are transformed.** *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV).*
 - b. **Expressing true Christian community.**
 - i. God wants to make his home in the body of Christ, in the corporate community of faith.
 - ii. In John 17:21-23, 26, Jesus casts a vision for our unity and oneness with God and each other.
 - iii. In Ephesians 2:21-22, God's dwelling place is no longer in a temple of stone but a community of human hearts.
 - iv. In 2 Corinthians 6:16-17, we are God's temple; we are God's house. *What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord" (2 Corinthians 6:16-17).*
 - v. We want God to be at home in us individually and corporately. There are things he does and does not want in his house; otherwise, he wouldn't feel at home nor would he feel welcomed.

- vi. The core outcome of community is to grow in our capacity for **authenticity** (being open, honest) in safe places with others.
- vii. **As we walk in the light with God and others, we are transformed** (1 John 1:7, 9; James 5:13-16).
- c. **Extending the Kingdom of God in the earth.**
 - i. God wants to make his home among us forever, the way it was meant to be. In Revelation 21:3, the Bible says that the dwelling of God is among people.
 - ii. This theme of God making his dwelling with us is a primary theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God” (Revelation 21:1-3).*
 - iii. The core outcome of community is to grow in our capacity for **alignment** with the way of Jesus and for getting in **action** to obey the Lord.
 - 1. Alignment with the way of Jesus (Acts 9:2, 18:25-26, 19:9, 19:23, 22:4, 24:14, 24:22).
 - 2. Action to obey Jesus (Matthew 28:20; John 14:15, 21, 23).
 - iv. **We are transformed as we radically obey the Lord, align with the way of Jesus, and join Jesus on his mission in the earth, with others, in our spheres of influence and beyond.**
- d. We are not here to specialize in one part of our vision. Rather, our vision is the way to stay in step with our King and to experience the transformation God desires for our lives.
- 3. **We partner with Jesus by praying, giving, and going.**
 - a. **Praying.**
 - i. *Matthew 9:35-38 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

- ii. *Acts 13:1-3 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

b. Giving.

- i. *But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:8–15).*
- ii. *Luke 8:1-3 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.*

c. Going.

- i. *Matthew 28:18-20 As you are going, make disciples of all nations... (Matthew 28:19).*
- ii. *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.*
- iii. *John 4:34-35 My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.*

iv. *Acts 13:47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”*

d. **Reality check.**

- i. Everyone is called to pray, everyone is called to give, and everyone is called to go.
- ii. Not everyone can pray day and night, but we can all pray some. Not everyone gives the same amount, but we can all give something. Not everyone is called to go to a foreign mission field, but we can all partner with Jesus in our spheres of influence and we can all support someone who is serving where we can't go.

Conclusion:

Calvary, today we celebrate what the Lord is doing in and through us to advance his kingdom in the earth.

We are a people who partner with Jesus on his mission, together with others, in our spheres of influence and in the earth.

And here is our desire and longing. *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).*

Thank you for praying, giving, and going with the Lord Jesus and others in your sphere of influence. And, thank you for partnering with us as we touch others locally and globally with the love of Jesus.

Ministry Time: