

## Cruise ship to Battleship – Love God, Love People, Be Discipled, Make Disciples

**Intro:** Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

### **Celebrations:**

1. **Teen Challenge – P. Danny “ALL IN”**
2. Let’s continue to pray for TC – if you, or someone you know, is struggling with addictions – contact TC. Don’t wait!
  - a. E.g. the best time to plant a tree? YESTERDAY – why? They take time to grow.
3. **Fall & School are here!** How many students & teachers do we have in the house? (school & home school)

**Church-Wide Prayer: Next Gen (Ps 78:7-8):** Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging

- Teachers/parents – “Spirit led”, wisdom, capacity, strength, empathy, truth
- Students – home, public, Christian school: encounters with Jesus, boldness, belonging with other believers, courage,
- Parents & youth: adjust to new schedule and routine
- Perseverance, hope, peace & next steps for those struggling with anxiety & depression
- Pray for boldness in sharing their faith, compassion and genuine love in how they treat people, for their personal testimonies to be strengthened, known for hard work, honesty, generosity, love, kindness, and for speaking the truth.

### **UPCOMING KICK-OFFS:**

- Prayer Summit KICKOFF end of this Month!
- Connect Cell & Small groups kicking off right after our Prayer Summit.
  - JOIN ONE! We need each other 😊
- Food and Clothing Drive – coming up! One Month away
  - Extra clothes? Bring them in!
  - Consider – what is one item of clothing you love? Let’s give from our BEST

**A. Mission Statement:** Love God, Love People, Be Discipled, Make Disciples

Whatever is HIS way, is OUR way

**Pandemic & Church Split:** Loneliness, not know where you fit, anxiety, depression, hopelessness are HIGH. This is a problem INSIDE our church and OUTSIDE the Church.

- *Research conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic showed that nearly half of people between the ages of 19 and 29 years have reported feeling symptoms of anxiety or depression at a significantly higher rate compared to other age groups [20]. Younger age predicted not only a negative psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic but also greater frequency and severity of sleep problems*

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10194920/#:~:text=Moreover%2C%2042.63%25%20of%20participants%20reported,19%20pandemic%20\(Table%203\).](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10194920/#:~:text=Moreover%2C%2042.63%25%20of%20participants%20reported,19%20pandemic%20(Table%203).)

- *Impacts of loneliness: We can all feel lonely sometimes. But prolonged and/or intense experiences of loneliness can have negative impacts on our lives. It can affect our health and wellbeing: <https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/facts-and-statistics/>*

  - *Loneliness can increase the risk of early mortality by 26% [15], put people at greater risk of poorer mental health, including depression [16]. 'lose confidence in themselves' [18], elevated blood pressure and acute stress responses [19]. 'poorer sleep quality' [21].: lower educational attainment [22].48% 'less likely to want to progress in work' [18].*

We are seeing this in our community, and in our church family. This has been made even more challenging for us being we went through a church split during the Pandemic.

**John 13:34-35** a new commandment I give you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, all people, will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

**Solution: three-fold strategy: Prayer, Church Family, Preaching**

**B. Strategy: Prayer:** the foundation of every work we do!

*"Prayer isn't everything, but everything should come from prayer" P.Ray*

- a. Personal prayer
- b. Church wide prayer
- c. Prayer ministry prayer

**C. Strategy: Church Family: Care, Connect & Go**

**For those who feel stuck – are you addressing the Five Types of Care?**

**First) PERSONAL: Five Types of Care: (missionary organization)**

- 1) **Jesus Care** – Jesus said in the Gospel of John, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."
- 2) **Self-Care** – NOT to be confused with selfish care. (Don't neglect #1) hygiene, exercise, eating good food, memorize, read, learn something new, practice STAR, etc.
- 3) **Small Church Care (community)** – small groups – friendship, empathy, prayer, honesty, accountability, fun, sharpen each other, serve, cry, laugh, grow in Christ together
- 4) **Big Church Care (organizational/church)** – pastoral counsel, advice, personal prayer ministry, retreats, seminars, weekend services, serving, etc. utilizing what the church offers.
- 5) **Specialized Care** – doctors, counselors, therapists, etc. E.g. tomorrow I go to the States to get an MRI for my shoulder. Why? Because I have tried everything else and im not progressing. I am stuck. So I am unashamedly going to specialists to find out what they think, so I can receive the help I need to move forward.
  1. Do you have mental health struggles? Don't suffer alone. Get help.

**Genesis 2:18** Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

**CHURCH SOLUTION: this is where I need YOUR help!**

**Second) INSIDE the Gathered Church: “NO ONE STANDS ALONE”**

- b. **We are FAMILY** – that is what church is. That is what being a Christian is! You are ADOPTED into a new FAMILY. An ETERNAL family! The local Church? Is your “immediate family” when you connect with the universal church? That is your “extended family”
- c. **CAVEAT:** busy – I have been there and will be! Trying to find your kids, have plans somewhere, etc. OR connecting with your people – YES – don’t neglect your primary relationships!
- d. Church Split: we have others who’s church community was pulled apart during the split and now they struggling to feel BELONGING!
- e. **Small groups – families – friendship groups – STUDENTS – YOUNG PEOPLE – MY GENERATION** – Young and old. SCRIPTURE SAYS we are MEMBERS OF THE BODY – AND OF EACH OTHER – when you see someone that’s alone... be the LIGHT – go show them that YOU see them... and better yet... that JESUS SEES THEM... we are the EXTENSION of His GRACE on the Earth.

**Third) OUTSIDE Scattered Church: “Each one, reach one.”**

- f. What would happen if 500 people said “YES” to reaching one person this year?
- g. This is Great Command – this is Great Commission!
- h. **Students – ONE PERSON; workers – ONE PERSON; employers – ONE PERSON; doctors – ONE PERSON; parents – ONE PERSON; young & old – ONE PERSON.**
- i. This starts with: 1) **PRAYER** – gets God’s heart, who he wants you to reach, then get strategy and intercede for them; 2) **Begin DISCIPLING THEM:** how? Loving, Serving, listening to them, and witnessing – sharing your story and faith with them! THIS IS A PROCESS> (prayer request)
- j. **John Scott**, “The difference between discipling 1 person and 1000 is relatively small. The difference between discipling 1 person and 0 is immense.”

**D. Strategy: Truth: Understanding God’s Grand Story**

- a. **End Times – eschatology – we need to understand what is coming and how to prepare – YES!**
  - i. When we think End Times... there **are TWO MAIN CAMPS:**
  - ii. **Camp Fear:** images of persecution... destruction... terror... come to mind! And believers easily fall into anxiety!!!
  - iii. **Camp Irrelevant:** Believers ignore it all together and believe that everything is hunky dory and God will rapture us before anything bad happens! Or, we believe that we are already in the millennial Kingdom and things are just going to continue to get BETTER until Jesus arrives = So we live in ignorant bliss.
  - iv. **Camp Get Ready!** Jesus is coming back to establish a Kingdom! Right before he returns there will be BOTH the greatest tribulation ever AND the GREATEST HARVEST EVER! BEST TIME IN HISTORY!

- v. **E.g. Reading a book from the wrong end** – you don't start at the back – nor do you randomly pick a page and expect to understand what the story is about!
- vi. **Joel Richardson put it this way:** to get your Eschatology right, you have to start with your worldview, which influences your theology, which influences your eschatology which dictates how you respond.
- vii. We have to start the story at the beginning to understand the end and how are to respond in the present.

**b. Biblical Worldview – laying the foundation for a biblical worldview:**

- i. **Example:** I live in a house. I don't need to know how it's built. I trust the builder did their job! No worries!
  - 1. If life is just about you living your life – sure!
  - 2. What if you were called to build houses? Or, train others to build houses? Would it matter then? YES!
- ii. **Post Modernism – there is no TRUTH - World today:** Carl Truman writes about the worldview of our current culture, “inner feelings have been given the ultimate authority. Truth is found primarily INSIDE the individual, based on feelings, rather than, OUTSIDE, based on facts.”
  - 1. **Live your truth** – follow your heart – no one can tell you who you are!
- iii. **Rousseau,** “identity is found in the inner life of an individual and society is a corrupting force on that self and prevents us from being who we are.”
  - 1. I AM NOT DENYING TRANSGENDERISM IS A REAL PROBLEM PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING WITH – NO! it is REAL. We are TRULY BROKEN PEOPLE. I AGREE!! People are HURTING! Something NEEDS TO BE DONE!
  - 2. I DISAGREE WITH SOCIETIES SOLUTION!
- iv. **Christian Answer:** to find your authentic self – you must look OUTSIDE your inner self to your CREATOR to find out WHAT you were made for, WHO you are, and HOW you should live.
  - 1. **IMAGE OF GOD** – you are intrinsically valuable! God only made ONE like you. He LOVES you and wants a relationship with YOU! Just as you are! He doesn't expect you to CHANGE first to be accepted – he will take you and love you in your broken state!
  - 2. **PROBLEM** – SIN – people are broken... there is sin in each of us... everyone acts in ways contrary to what they know is good!
  - 3. **SOLUTION** – Jesus made a way for us! He offers us forgiveness and redemption!

**E. Closing Prayer Commitment:** Let's continue giving our “YES” – whatever is HIS WAY, is OUR WAY.

- **Prayer:** for our church, our community, those we wish to reach
- **Church Family:** Care – 5 types: is there an area you need to address?
  - Scattered, “each one, reach one” & Gathered, “no one stands alone”
- **Truth:** study Scripture, engage in sermons, engage culture

**AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM ONLY**

**MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!**

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**SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023**

**Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship**

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers