

Transforming the City

by saturating thirsty hearts

God has been faithful to His church!

- Church is growing (80/100).
- Visitors are being loved.
- Partners are connecting.
- People are coming to Christ.
- Online messages are reaching people.
- Marriages are improving.
- Community groups are well attended.
- Christ followers are maturing.
- Children's ministries are well structured and fun.
- People are volunteering.
- Some leave but other great people come.
- God is raising up leaders.
- Opportunities to serve the community.
- People are sharing Jesus with friends and family.

Our mission

To relentlessly saturate the hearts of thirsty people with God's truth and love in community in order to transform the city.

John 4:13

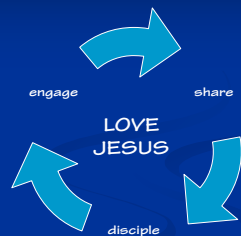
Our Strategy for 2008

- Become better lovers of Jesus, his kingdom and people
- Become better engagers of people and culture
- Become better sharers of ourselves for Jesus and His Kingdom
- Become better discipler's of people for His Kingdom

Transformational Strategy

■ LOVE JESUS

- ENGAGE (missional)
- SHARE (sacrificial)
- DISCIPLE (ambassador)



But I already love Jesus...

■ Is it reflective in your...

- Time
 - For Him
 - For Yourself
- Lifestyle
 - Seen
 - Unseen
- Family
 - Husband and Wife
 - Parent/child
 - Child to Child
 - Neighborhood
- Finances
 - Giving
 - Checkbook
- Service
 - Family
 - Community
 - Church

"Christ followers can only transform culture and cities as the love of Jesus demonstrated through the gospel transforms the church."

Acts 11:20, 21

"Christ's redemption was all about: restoration - not simply individual pardon and forgiveness. Thus the Transformational Church seeks to actively engage the culture in every aspect - spiritually, socially and economically - on both an individual and corporate level."

- Tim Keller (Pastor, Redeemer Presbyterian, NY)

What does it mean to love Jesus (Matthew 22:37)?

- Why explore this distinction?
 - We tend to love Jesus for what he can do for us more than for who he is.
 - When we place our faith and hope in what Jesus did for us we then understand love (John 3:16).
- Mean? - 1 John 4:19
 - We have a fond affection for Jesus that loves Him with our entire being.

"We love because he first loved us."

1 John 4:19

"When the gospel comes to us it does not find us loving God, it does not expect anything of us, but coming with the divine application of the Holy Ghost, it simply assures us that God loves us, but never so deeply immersed in sin; and then, the after effect of this proclamation of love is, that "we love him because he first loved us."

- Spurgeon

Our love for Jesus is an offspring of His love for us.

The more we love Jesus

- The more we'll love one another 1 John 3:16
- The more we'll love our communities Acts 11:24
- The more we'll love our city Acts 11:25

"We can't transform our city without loving Jesus, one another, our communities and our city."

An outflow of our love of Jesus - Engaging...

- As we love Jesus, it stirs our hearts to engage in relationship with people.
- John 4: Jesus engaged with a Samaritan woman

A love for Jesus...

- (1) Engage to breakdown every barrier for the gospel
 - Social & Cultural
 - Gender
 - Racial
 - Spiritual
- (2) Engage with culture regardless of the behaviors and beliefs of the people who make up the culture.
 - Get dirty
 - Build bridges

A love for Jesus...

- (3) Engage to reveal spiritual ignorance and a need for Jesus.
 - Listen well to the hearts of thirty people
 - Meet people where they are
 - Establish a friendship
 - Bring the truth in humility

A love for Jesus...

- (4) Engage to explain the eternal satisfaction that only comes through Jesus.
 - People are thirsty and pursuing idols.
 - Engage to bring truth.

An Outflow of our Love for Jesus - Sharing

- All of us bring something to the Kingdom of God that must be shared for the benefit of other people: (transformation)
 - Time
 - Talents and gifts
 - Money (tithes/offerings)
 - Material possessions (4-32)
 - Information about our community
 - Resources

An Outflow of our Love for Jesus -
Seeking to disciple and be disciplined...

■ Discipleship -(Matt. 16:24-28): Like Him?

- Self-denial
- Representing the cross.
- Losing your life in Him

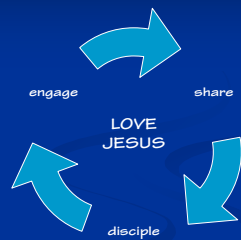
Discipleship 101

- *Becoming a student (learner) of Jesus.*
- *Becoming accountable in order to grow spiritually.*
- *Reading your love letter in order to know Jesus.*
- *Praying to Jesus in order to relate to Him.*
- *Becoming a Christ-like ambassador and missionary for Jesus.*

Transformational Strategy

■ LOVE JESUS

- ENGAGE (missional)
- SHARE (sacrificial giver)
- DISCIPLE (ambassador)



Are you ready?

- LOVE JESUS
- Engage with people and culture
- Share yourself and your resources
- Disciple and be disciplined

What does it look
like in community?

Tom Rose