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The Church – Who Needs It? - Acts 16:16 – 34

EFCA Mission/Vision – We exist to strengthen our member churches so that together we may multiply healthy churches among all people.

Strategy – Connect, Equip & Multiply

A. Overview of the story

- Paul & Silas were thrown into prison after healing demon-possessed girl
- They were stripped, beaten and feet put in stocks.
- Notice – What were they doing? vs. 25
- Praying and singing praises to God
- Paul & Silas understood their mission – The Jailer!
- The churches were praying for them!
- God answers their prayers with the earthquake.
- Family surrenders their life to Jesus!

B. The Facts from Surveys: 7 Reasons Why People Attend Church - Gallup Poll

1. 23%- for spiritual growth and guidance
2. 20%- keeps me grounded/guided
3. 15%- it's my faith
4. 15%- to worship God
5. 13%- the fellowship of other members (the community)
6. 12%- believe in God/religion
7. 12%- brought up that way (tradition)

13 Reasons Unchurched People Choose a Church – Thom Rainer

1. 90% – Pastor/Preaching
2. 88% – Doctrines
3. 49% – Friendliness of Members
4. 41% – Someone at Church Witnessed to Me
5. 38% – Family Member
6. 37% – Sensed God's Presence/Atmosphere of Church
7. 25% – Relationship Other than Family Member
8. 25% – Sunday School Class
9. 25% – Children's/Youth Ministry
10. 11% – Worship Style/Music
11. 7% – Location

According to Barna Research - Despite the cultural impact of mega-churches, most churchgoers attend services in a more intimate context.

1. 46% attend a church of 100 or fewer attendees.
2. 37% attend a church of 100-499
3. 9% go to a church of 500-999
4. 8% attend a church of 1,000 or more.

Vision of Monroe Bible Church is to Glorify God
Mission of the Church is Making Disciples

Why do we exist as a church & how do we measure success?

Here's what we need to be about in the local church.

1. _____ I Cor 10:31

Whatever you do in word or deed do all to the glory of God.

2. _____ Psalm 122:1

I was glad when they said let us go into the house of the Lord! We exist to passionately celebrate the Lord – Communion

3. _____ & _____ with other believers

I John 3:18 – Show love through actions. The best expression of love is time. Community Groups. We all need support!

4. _____ Matt 28:19-20

Make, Mature & Multiply Disciples who make more Disciples.

Not to go & make converts – make disciples who follow Jesus Christ for their life.

5. _____ Matthew 9:37-38

Harvest is plentiful, workers are few. Key is sharing the gospel

6. _____ Matthew 20:27-28

We exist to serve others by demonstrating God's love.

Service is not an option. The Messiah did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life.

The Church – Who Needs it? _____ Need it!

Congregational Response

We are one in Christ,

We recognize that this one fact outweighs all of our differences

And that there is nothing in this world that is stronger,

Than the Love of Christ which unites us.

By God's grace we now pledge that we will live

United in His love toward one another,

Affirming one another

And praying for one another

As a community of redeemed people.

May God give us the humility to consider

One another's needs before our own,

To accept one another without qualification,

And to look past each other's weaknesses,

Knowing that we all stumble in many ways.

And may He grant us the capacity to

Identify the talents and abilities He has given us,

As well as the willingness to apply them,

So that the body of Christ may be built up,

And that we may work together for the glory of God

Until Jesus comes or calls us home.