

August 2021



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Different Angles on the Same Purpose

Every authentic church of Jesus and every authentic individual follower of Jesus has the same purpose; to make disciples (followers) of Jesus. I use the words authentic church and authentic individual follower because Jesus gave us the commission in Matthew chapter 28. If a person claims to be a “follower” but isn’t following what Jesus said to do, they might be fooling themselves about whether they actually are a follower (disciple) of Jesus.

Different methods and practices have been used down through the years to try to make disciples. Different ways of stating the process or purposes or mission of a church have also been used. We summarize our process of making disciples with a mere three words: Trust, Grow, Serve. As we begin to explain what we mean with these words, the focus on Jesus is clear: Trust Christ, Grow in Christ, Serve Christ. We have chosen to express the process from the viewpoint of the disciple. More details from the Matthew 28 passage clarify why we focus on these three steps.

Jesus said to “make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father...Son...and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all I have commanded you.” Everywhere in the New Testament, baptizing is done after a person expresses that they have trusted Christ for salvation and have been “born again” (John 3:3-16). The first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus is to Trust Christ. Without that step, no one can truly be a disciple of Jesus.

Once that step has been taken, a disciple needs to learn to obey all that Jesus commanded. This learning process we have summarized as Grow in Christ. Jesus commanded us to do many things. Is there a priority that Jesus gave us, or maybe a summary that helps us to know where to focus? Yes!!! Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul and...mind.” He also said, “the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” In the New Testament, love includes feelings but love is primarily an *action*. We *do* love more than merely feel love. We summarize this command to do love as Serve Christ. When we love our neighbor as ourself, we are loving Christ. Trust, Grow, Serve.

Others have written different statements to summarize their mission. Pastor Rick Warren wrote his church’s statement from that vantage point of the purposes that God had in making each person; worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship and service. Both angles are useful.

Beginning in September we will have a 40 Days of Community emphasis. It will include Sunday Worship, Sunday School and individual daily opportunities. Pastor Rick Warren introduced the challenge to his congregation like this:

“Today I want us to start a journey on an even bigger idea. That is you cannot fulfill God’s purposes for your life (worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship and service) by yourself. There’s no way. There’s no way you can be all God wants you to be, do all God wants you to do, fulfill the purposes that you were put on this planet to fulfill by yourself. You have to do it in relationship to other people. We need each other and we belong to each other in the body of Christ.”

I say, you cannot be a disciple of Jesus on your own. Trusting, growing and serving are all relational. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity this fall to grow in your understanding and practice of community.

In His Joy,

AUGUST SERMON SCHEDULE

01	Daniel 10:1-11:1
08	Daniel 11:2-35
15	Daniel 11:36-12:13
22	TBD
29	TBD

YOUTH MINISTRY

So I was thinking...

about schedules. As we enter the last month of summer vacation and start preparing for fall programming, I can't help but get excited. I love fall and I really love a schedule. I'm good with "winging" things from time to time and making spontaneous and last-minute plans, but I love having a schedule. If there are deadlines in that schedule even better. Now don't get me wrong, I will procrastinate until the last minute even with deadlines looming, but I like knowing they are there. It's like my schedule tells me what to expect and I find comfort in it. When there is nothing in my calendar and no plans, I sometimes feel lost and struggle making decisions.

I think that's why the talk that Pastor Morrow gave to the young people on the mission trip in Memphis in June has really stuck with me. He sat them all down and talked about how our life is "scheduled." Now that's my word, not his, I can't actually remember how he brought this topic up, but I do remember what he said. He explained that our lives are broken up (scheduled) into 20-year segments. (He used 80 years of age as the end date for clarity.) He described each stage to the kids starting with their current stage, the first 20 years. He explained that the focus of this stage is learning. The goal for this stage is to soak up as much knowledge about God, the bible, interests, language, book knowledge, etc. as possible. (That's probably because he knows that it's easier to learn and memorize things in the first 20 than the next 60.) The next stage, 20-40 years, is the exploring stage. This is when you start applying and trying out the knowledge you have acquired. This is the stage of figuring out what career you want and testing out some of the information you have to see what you keep and what you discard. (To me this also could be the time when you make your faith your own. It's where you wrestle through questions and weigh out what people have told you with what you learn from the Bible, your own studying, and your experiences.)

The next stage, 40-60 years, is the mastering years. This stage resonates with me because it's my current one and it made sense. Not that I think I've mastered anything yet, but I can see how far I've come and there is a contentment that I did not experience before 40. This stage is also when you should start to see accomplishments in your career or with your family. This is when all the earlier hard work allows you to live the life you want and life starts to make sense, at least that's been my experience. It's not that you have all the answers and no more questions, but during this stage there's a maturity and an awareness about life that brings clarity.

The last stage, which would be from 60-80, but in reality continues until you can't anymore, is the passing it down stage. Yes, you should be mentoring, discipling, and sharing your knowledge the entire time, but this is the stage where passing your knowledge down to someone younger than you is your purpose. It's a time where you no longer have to do the "physical" labor, you can pull up a chair and supervise. Now spiritually speaking, this means you've done the hard work yourself and let God mold you and change you. This also means you've experienced life: joyful and painful events that have stretched you and tried you until you've given everything you have and everything you are to the Lord. Now I'm not in this stage, yet, so maybe I'm wrong here but that's also why I love that Pastor Morrow pointed it out. He is in this stage. In his way, in the time we had together, he was trying to live out what he was teaching us. He was trying to pass a small part of his knowledge down to us. He had

retired from his career as a full-time minister and thought life would slow down. He never imagined he would be ministering to homeless people or still in charge of running a non-profit organization that reaches displaced youth, but he is. He is still running the race that God had set before him and he enjoys spending most of his time passing down the knowledge and experiences God has given him to anyone who will listen. This time with Pastor Morrow was not on our trip schedule. It was a last-minute change that I am grateful for experiencing.

...until next time.

Rebecca Anderson

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

VISITATION PASTOR

I have recently been thinking about the word reconciliation and the implications it has in our lives. The definition of reconciliation is "to restore friendly relations between, cause to coexist in harmony; make or show to be compatible." Having **Friendly relations** is the key concept in the practice of reconciliation; this is often sadly lacking in our daily associations with others. If you think about it, we are almost in continuous contact with someone throughout each day – at home, at work, at the store, at church, at school, online...well, you get the picture! This presents us with numerous occasions to offend or be offended by something done or said. How well we understand our role in these interactions will determine the success (or lack of it) that we have in keeping our communications open with others. Normally in moments of discussion where emotions run high, we justify harsh words with a statement like, "well it's about time someone told them the truth" and then we wonder why they avoid us. If we practiced the Biblical model of Eph. 4:15...

"speaking the truth in love" because we were genuinely concerned for them rather than defending our position, we might not find ourselves in as many of these situations. A few verses that reveal the heart of God are Romans 12:18, **"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men,"** and Matt.5:8, **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."** The practice of weighing our words carefully before speaking has great merit. Prov. 10:19 says, **"In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise."** As detrimental as our speech can be in driving a wedge between us and our loved ones, we should be all the more careful to take to heart the instruction God gives us in Scripture. Moreover, God has made us ambassadors for Christ according to 2 Cor. 5:17-20, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."** This ministry of reconciliation is God pleading through us for men to be reconciled to Him through Christ! Don't hinder God's efforts to restore friendly relations with mankind by thoughtless words and actions!
—Mike Gasser

AUGUST MINISTRIES & MEETINGS

WORSHIP TEAM

1	Youth
8	Lisa, Emily, Jennifer, Tamra
15	Isaacsons
22	Sam & Aimee
29	Eric & Kaarin

ORGANIST

Ellen
Jody
Dolly
Karen
Ellen

Arranging Special Music for August: Dolly
AUDIO TECH - Nathan VISUAL TECH - Sam B/Jane S

MEETINGS

C.E.Board	Wed.	4th	7:00 pm
Missions Committee	Thu.	5th	6:00 p.m.
Trustee Board	Tue.	10th	7:00 p.m.
Deacon Board	Mon.	30th	7:00 p.m.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST



- 2 Terrie Grapa, Darrin Polzin
- 3 Karolyn Erickson, Ashley Berg
- 4 Carrie Ulrich
- 7 Chris Blomberg, Landon Blomberg, Teague Shoup, Violet Jesunas
- 8 Michelle Nelson, Alisha Olson, Vytas Jesunas,
- 9 Mindi Wolsky, Luca Blomberg
- 10 Julia Blomberg
- 12 Kari Swan, Thorson Gustafson
- 13 Scott Hueckman, Mike Ulrich
- 14 Tim Heisz
- 15 Tina Cattanach
- 16 Manny Espinoza
- 17 Hagan Isaacson
- 18 Levi Gedde, Angelica Ezpinoza
- 19 Duane Heldstab
- 20 Andrea Blomberg, Deb Bosserman, Katie Carlson, Emma Blomberg
- 21 Debbie Gustafson, Christopher Gedde, Fallon Blomberg
- 22 Heidi Loomis
- 23 Molly Andreae, Justin Ulrich
- 24 Lloyd Johnson, Nikki Heikkinen, Leah Reynolds
- 25 Nathan Lind, Carolyn Bauer
- 26 Noah Ulrich, Lance Gustafson, Lance Meier

JOIN US & GROW IN GOD'S WORD



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teaching us how to "Live the Life!"

There's a class for everyone; every age!
9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.

On the 29th we will be hearing a testimony
from Randy & Shirley Hueckman.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, August 15, 7:00 p.m.

7 Reasons to Attend a Business Meeting

1. Because you are an important member of the church family.
2. Because the business to be discussed is the greatest business in the world—the Lord's business
3. Because you let the Lord and others know that you care.
4. Because of the fellowship
5. Because you have a chance to be heard.
6. Because it will encourage others.
7. Because you have a responsibility.



Happy Birthday!

TITUS 2

Women of all ages, **please join us** for evenings of encouragement and testimony this summer. We will meet twice each month at 6:30 p.m. at Janet Blomberg's home.



Monday August 2 Jane Stelzer
Monday August 16 Emily Gilge Blomberg

Did you not know that I must be
about my Father's business?

Luke 2:49

Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family (on our mailing list) has an address change
 - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
 - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: info@ogemabaptistchurch.org Thank You!



GEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 556, OGEMA, WI 54459 715-767-5157

www.ogemabaptistchurch.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OGEMA, WI
54459
PERMIT NO. 5



*"For where two or three
gather in my name,
there I am with them."*

Matthew 18:20

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:15 a.m.
or online at www.ogemabaptistchurch.org

Wednesday Evening:
7:00-8:00 p.m. Adult Prayer Meeting