

Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering is **TODAY** at **3pm** continuing the pattern of meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- *If you have not already completed your 2023 Promise, please click [here](#).*
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) and the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

While driving and listening to the radio this past week I heard the result of a poll the radio staff conducted on when Christmas ends and people take down their Christmas decorations. They shared a long list of answers, but not one, corresponded to the actual end of Christmas. Obviously aware that our present culture has nearly forgotten the **reason for the season**, it should not have been a surprise that there was not a single mention that Christmas ends on Epiphany.

Such is the reality that we find ourselves in. Every day it seems our culture takes another step away from God's call. Every day it seems we move away from a Christendom age into an Apostolic age. It is just the reality of the time we find ourselves in. As a Community, it is imperative that we recognize it and respond appropriately.

In 2021, the Coordinators spend time studying again [Our Covenant](#) and how, we as leaders, could recommit to living it. In 2022 we spent the year as a Community sharing exhortations at Gatherings and encouraging each other to recommit to living the call the God placed on our lives!

In 2022, the Coordinators read and discussed a book called [From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age](#). This book was an eye opener. The first three chapters set the scene whereas the final two chapters focus on the question of what we must do differently when we are no longer living in a Christendom culture. The reality is that we are in an Apostolic age that has nearly completely forgotten God and His abundant love. Not only is this age

unaware of the transformational impact of a personal relationship with Jesus, it does not know who He is, or care. Further, when presented with a manifestation or experience of the Holy Spirit, rather than being amazed, it usually responds with a hostile denial.

Such is our lot. Such was the lot of the Jesus' Apostles and first Disciples. The simple reality is that we cannot expect there to be widespread interest in God today. The days of an invite to a prayer meeting being all that was asked of us are long gone. We simply need to do more. We need to recognize, as His early Disciples did, that most of the world we find ourselves in has never heard of Jesus much less is hungry for a transformation. So, much like His Disciples had to do, we must start at the beginning and tell the story. Each of us has a story to tell. We know what life was like before we met Jesus and we know the impact it had for us. No amount of power, prestige, or possessions would make us deny God's love, Jesus our Savior, or the power we see in a life in the Spirit. Nancy Ward offers specifics in her book: [Sharing Your Catholic Faith Story](#).

If you have not read [From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age](#), I encourage you to embrace it. No need to spend a lot of time with the first three chapters since we are all aware that 2023 is much different than the past, but really take in the last two chapters and embrace the strategies presented. How can we respond differently, as a Community, in 2023? How can I respond differently in 2023? How will I respond to the opportunities that God will present?

Jesus is alive! Our culture does not know Him. As His Disciples, we not only know of Him, we know Him! Our mission, as a Community and as individuals, is to make Him known. *"Silver and Gold I have not but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk."*

Maybe this is our special charge as we start 2023. How do we individually, and as a Community, respond throughout 2023 to God's covenant calling? What must we do **differently** to effectively evangelize in this current Apostolic age? How do we

cooperate with what God is about and bring an epiphany to my family, friends, and everyone God will lead our way?

"My Lord and Savior, I recognize that I am in an apostolic age and that things are different now. Even though sharing You seems harder, know that I am committed to making You known. Remove any hindrance or hesitancy regarding me making You known in word and deed today, and every day. Give me the fruits and gifts of Your Holy Spirit to empower me so that I always make You known. I love You Lord!"

God Bless,

David

p.s. I have attached a letter from a partner organization in the Renewal that will be here later this month to record short testimonies. If you are open to doing this, please contact Deacon Darrel directly and/or let me know how I can support your response.