## Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering is a week from today, Sunday June 25th at 3pm.
- Visit our <u>Jubilee web page</u> to enjoy content from our 50th Anniversary.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio <u>here</u>, read the Word Gift summary <u>here</u>, and the transcript <u>here</u>.
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online <a href="here">here</a> or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

First, let me express my congratulations and thank you to all fathers today. It was in Community that I learned the higher calling of Fatherhood. In Community we experienced the higher calling of going beyond the provider-protector role to seeing fathers lay their lives down building a loving selfless relationship with their children - modeling the Father's love. Thank you to all of you, and those who have gone on to their eternal reward, who loved in this way!

The <u>Gospel</u> today is a very familiar passage that I think is particularly relevant for us as a Community! It starts with the Jesus' observation "At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd." It is my prayer today, for myself and each of you, that God bestow His heart upon us and everywhere we look our hearts will be moved with pity when we see those who do not know Him in a personal way, those who are troubled, and abandoned. We do live in a troubled world and must not wall ourselves off and prevent our Heavenly Father from moving us as Jesus was moved to respond.

Jesus words to His disciples following His observation were "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." As I mentioned this is particularly relevant to us as a Community today. Following our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we have witnessed many new people seeking out our Lord, a life in the Spirit, and a Community connection.

For those who participated in our <u>Jubilee</u> we were blessed by the strong attendance and stories of revival. We had 36 people fill out an Information Card

requesting to participate closer with Community. Many of these indicated a desire to attend a Life in the Spirit Seminar and/or to be included in a small group such as a Bible Study. The Coordinators are still trying to reach out to those who responded at the event or online and I mention this to ask for your help.

Following our blessed Pentecost Gathering we held a "Meet and Greet" where we welcomed 16 couples or adults who were interested in more information about Life in the Spirit and Community. All but four are in addition to the 36 from the Jubilee list. Similarly, the Coordinators are starting to reach out to them, and I again mention this to ask for your help.

In our past we had welcome and formation ministries who served us making connections and providing formation and outreach. Today, we are much smaller and are not staffed to respond in a similar manner. Simply put, we need you. We need everyone helping to make these connections and build relationships to introduce them to our loving Savior, to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, to a live in the Spirit and to discern a call to Community. When I listen to testimonies, I most often hear how folks were brought to the Lord through a <u>personal invitation</u>. We know this from our life in Community. We are here, not only because we were hungry for the Lord, but because someone reached out and invited us.

This is where the Gospel today concludes. Jesus summoned His twelve disciples, gave them authority over unclean spirits and to cure every disease and every illness and proclaimed to them "The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." These words are particularly relevant to us today. We need you to respond to what the Holy Spirit is doing in our day and time!

If you are willing to serve on a Life in the Spirit team, please contact Bob Montgomery, if you are willing to reach out to those in your Area, please contact your Area Pastoral Coordinator. If you want to help but are unsure how, simply respond to this email and I will pray and discern with you.

Let us pray, "Jesus, as individuals and as a Community, we want to respond to Your call to be active in our world revealing the power of the Holy Spirit. Give us the eyes to see those in need, give us Your heart to take pity and courageously respond. Raise us up for this current generation who is hurting and eager to follow You as we have. We love You Lord, give us a passionate love for those You are sending to us! Amen."

God Bless, David