

## Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering is **TODAY** at 4pm. In April we will continue the pattern of in-person prayer meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. In May we will change to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays since Mother's Day is on the second Sunday of May. In June we will return to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.
- Last week I wrote about our Community's participating in the [North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities](#) (NAN) conference on the theme of [Covenant Communities for a New Generation](#). If you have not already done so I highly recommend going to the conference webpage [here](#) and listening to the talks. They are all excellent and worthy of our time!
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or 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.

I have a very important topic to share with you. As you are aware from past letters, during covid, the Community coordinators held a call nearly every Monday evening to pray and discuss Community life. While there is no escaping the impacts of covid on our ability to live the covenant that God called us to, we wanted to draw near to Him and to each other to do our very best to be responsive to His call during this pandemic. Our discussions highlighted other cultural attacks on Community life such as the end of the Christendom which is impacting all of us, especially our youth and young adults.

But, despite all the challenges one thing remained constant in every conversation, God is not finished with us yet! God is about a mighty work in the North Texas area, and He wants us to always look beyond our present circumstance and keep our eyes on Him and the covenant and mission that He has called us to!

To that end we were again and again drawn to read and reread [our covenant](#). It is a beautiful inspired text...but does cover a lot of ground. We discerned not to change it but felt a call to pray through every word and ask God to reveal the essential elements that He wanted us to focus on today.

The exhortation that we heard was the need to be **intentional**. The river water in which we live our covenant life has turned around and is moving in the opposite

direction. We cannot just attend the plethora of Community events and coast, now we must paddle together with our eyes on Him if we are to combat the current.

During the sharing that Laurie and I gave at the NAN conference on marriage, Laurie referred to a quote from Peter Drucker stating, "If you can't measure it, you can't improve it". She suggested taking a moment to examine our own marriage and give ourselves a score between 1 and 10 because "measurement creates awareness, awareness leads to intentionality, intentionality drives behavior." Her point was to prompt prayerful consideration on what the Holy Spirit might be calling each of us to and commit to some specific action. I think this applies to our response to our CCGD covenant as well.

It is important to understand that this is not intended to make anyone feel bad about limitations regarding how we are living our covenant today. This is not a report card exercise nor trying to cause guilt trips. The point is **intentionality**. Swimming or paddling upstream, as we now must do requires much more focus and effort than ever before. The document that we are introducing is intended to provide a very simple, clear, list of the elements involved in living our CCGD covenant so that we can create the awareness that leads to intentionality that will lead us to prayer to hear how the Holy Spirit wants each of us to do something specific to renew and refresh living our covenant.

During the last year or so the Community Coordinators took this document and individually prayed and discerned what we each should do. We heard testimonies of being called back into small groups and bible studies and new ones were formed. We heard testimonies of the need to enter into a pastoral care relationship and these were reestablished. On down the list Coordinators found joy and fullness from the introspection of examining our response to living our covenant life and asking the Holy Spirit to bring forward the one most important area that needed attention. Now, we are asking everyone in CCGD to join us in this. We are planning to ask the Coordinators to give short sharings at the end of upcoming prayer meetings to provide testimonies and exhortations about each point.

Here is the document we are offering for your discernment:

## **What it means to live our CCGD Covenant:**

- Strive to live and grow in a Spirit-filled relationship with God by:
  - Praising and Worshiping Him regularly,
  - Praying daily, reading and meditating on His Word,
  - Earnestly desiring to receive and exercise the Spiritual Gifts; and
  - Being His disciples by conforming our lives to Jesus, drawing others to Him.
  
- Strive to build interconnected covenant relationships of mutual love by:
  - Regular participation in CCGD and Area events;
  - Regular participation in a small group - for formation, support, and relationship-building;
  - Having a relationship of accountability (Pastoral care, Spiritual director, prayer partner);
  - Financially supporting one another as a faithful steward of God's gifts, and
  - Serving and building Community.

God Bless,

David