

### Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Community Gathering will be next Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the MSMCS gym.
- If you were not able to attend our last Gathering, you can listen to the audio [here](#) and review the Word Gift summary [here](#) and read the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

**Reflection** - At the end of the first reading today from Amos ([Am 7:12-15](#)) we hear the words "Go, prophesy to my people Israel." As I pondered that a few minutes I reflected on God choosing Israel as **His People** and how He called them, protected them, and revealed Himself to the world through them. I then considering our own call. There can be no doubt that God called a people in Dallas Texas to be **His People, His Delight**. He has used us for His purposes and continues to use us. What does it mean to be **A People**? What does it mean to be **His People**?

I think in our early days this was a much easier question to answer. We had a strong presence, many strong leaders, many active ministries, and witnessed locally and globally. What does it mean to be His People today? This is an important question and made even more challenging because of covid. Many of the aspects of our early life together are not still in place. Also, unlike some Charismatic Communities we do not live in the same neighborhood and our children are grown or do not all go to the same school.

Does that mean that our work is done? I think of the early disciples and the early church that was faced with Jesus being taken from them. They may have faced many of these same questions. Life is so much harder now than when Jesus was physically present to them... But this is exactly why God sent His Holy Spirit, why Jesus left us His Body and Blood, and why the early church was formed...because we must go on. We must embrace our role as overcomers.

I suspect that it is a completely different experience for someone to walk into one of our Gatherings today than it was to attend a prayer meeting ten or twenty

years ago. I suspect the process of discerning a call to be a part of us is a completely different experience today than it was prior. We are smaller in number, we do not meet as often, we have fewer ministries, we are not as interconnected as we once were. Does that mean our call has changed? Does that mean we are less His People? Does it indicate that there is less of a reason for God to have A People in North Texas?

I think the need is as great or greater. I think God has raised us up 'for a time such as this'. Maybe the readings today are meant to remind us of our call to be His People and our mission. In the Gospel today from Mark ([Mk 6:7-13](#)) we hear in Jesus' words the mission. He sent them out two by two. He empowered them, instructed them, and sent them out. We too have been empowered with His Holy Spirit, we too have been instructed these past fiftyish years, we too have been and are being sent. This has always been our mission and will always remain our mission....to preach the Good News through our lives, through our love for one another, through our daily witness, through our laying our lives down for one another and those we encounter every day.

Each of our 'mission fields' is unique and different but we must appreciate that the field is not going to come to us...we are being sent out. We must take steps and respond to the call to go out into it.

For years when I would describe the Community to friends, I would describe us as a people who both form a tight community of interconnected lives of mutual support AND a people who are actively serving and witnessing in our local churches. We had many deacons, many discerning for religious vocations, many leading within our various parishes and at the diocesan level. The bottom line is that we were all serving...some serving within the Community and some serving outwardly.

I strongly believe that God is not finished with us yet, but we must be A People, His People, and continue our mission. We must continue both to actively build Community and to outwardly spread His love and Gospel message. To be successful we need everyone. Think about a new person who comes to Community

or someone who has made an underway or covenant commitment the last five years. It is unlikely that they have the lifetime relationships that many of us have that is sustained even through a global pandemic. For these folks we need to reach out and maximize connections, we need to love and support them. Let us all recommit to fully living our covenant and reach out and connect with those we do not know well. Let us find ways to actively share our lives and support one another in this mission. We need each other. What can I do today to build Community? What can I do today to spread the Good News? If you are hesitant or do not feel capable, I remind you that we are still in the Pentecost season, flexing our renewed spiritual muscles, and only have to say Yes, and allow His gifts, His grace to animate our response. Come Lord Jesus.

*Let us pray "Heavenly Father, I am truly sorry for any laziness that has slowed my zeal to build Your kingdom, to build Community. I recommit to my covenant with You, with my sisters and brothers, and to the mission which You have personally given to me. I love You with my whole heart and earnestly love my covenant sisters and brothers. Show me how I can love You, love them, and witness for You, today and every day. Give me the gifts of Your Holy Spirit and empower my use of them to build Your Kingdom! Amen."*

God bless,  
David