

# 2017 State of the Church

Steve Berger January 15, 2017

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive best year ever

...but first, make clear **who we are**, and are not

1. **Equip People to be Passionate Servants of Jesus Christ...** do it by...
2. **Ephesians 4:15:** “speaking the truth in love” — holding nothing back
3. **Acts 1:8:** “under the power of the Holy Spirit” — through worship and prayer
4. **Matthew 28:20:** “making disciple-makers” — emphasizing Word and Transformation

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...but first, make clear **who we are not**

**1 Timothy 4:1** — “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...”

**2 Timothy 3:1,5,7** — “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: people will have a form of godliness but deny its power: always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** — “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

**We are not a community of faith-departing, Holy Spirit rejecting,  
always learning, never able, itching ears,  
tell me what I want to hear “Christians.”**

**Our goal isn't to be hip, tolerant or politically correct.**

**Our goal is to be holy, loving and faithful to Jesus!**

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**With that said... we just finished our 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive best year ever...**

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## Finances

- Total tithes and offerings for 2016 - **\$8.2M (14% increase over 2015)**
- Total donations - **\$11.8M (includes \$3.4M from sacrificial offering)**
- Total Debt - **\$5.2M (after receiving \$2.5M from Grace Christian Academy for land/house purchase) Currently we pay 2-3 times mortgage due each month.**
- Staff Payroll % - **28% of total donations** (minus \$3.4M for sacrificial offering), otherwise it is 20% of total donations. This is a much lower percentage than most churches.

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## Missions

- Total Outreach % — 26% of tithes and offerings
- Planted two churches — Grace Chapel Knoxville, Grace Chapel Navajoa in Mexico
- Persecuted church — Iraqi Christians in Jordan, over 500 families Christmas, continue working with Senator Corker, and UNHCR
- Arise Hope — outreach to Arab-speaking Muslims
- Josiah's House and Giovanna's House in Dominican Republic
- Haiti — team there now
- Sudan — life-sustaining food, etc.
- Kids on Stage — Chinese student outreach
- Baby Girls Club — Nicole C, reaching underprivileged girls locally, dance, discipleship
- Hope Clinic, Mercy Multiplied, Narrow Gate, Room in the Inn, Pure Passion, Reboot, Landstuhl
- Grace Chapel Mission Trip attendees — 53

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## Ministry Impact (Internal)

- **Baptisms** — 108
- **Volunteers** — 960
- **Adult equipping** unique attenders— 594
- **Life Groups** — 90, 800 attenders
- **Celebrate Recovery**
- **Ironmen** attenders — 267 (those men who printed name tags!)
- **Women's Ministry** attenders — 584
- **1NE Young Adults Group**- 50+
- **High School Students** — 380 overall, Sunday average 53, Wednesday average 60
- **Middle School Students** — 352 overall, Sunday average 154, Wednesday average 86
- **Birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade** — 2001 unique kids overall; average of 475 kids per week; a Sunday high attendance of 592 kids. Total Outreach % — 26% of tithes and offerings

- **VBS**
  - 607 unique attendees
  - 78 First Time Visitors
  - 222 Volunteers
  - 11 children with special needs attended with buddies
  - 62 First time faith decisions (that we know of)
  - 12 came from first time visitors
- **FX Launch** — Monthly Family Programming that corresponds with children's lesson
  - January 8 Launch we had approximately 250 attending
  - FX dates: January 29<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, August 27<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>, and December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Wednesday night programming**
  - Kids crew – Singing in the Sanctuary, Kids production, Christmas production, Nursing home visit, Military box cards
- **HELP-** 25 volunteers away from fully staffed, cards are in seat pockets
- **Can Do Ministry** — special needs kids
  - Sunday mornings — ministers to 20 families
  - 30 different families have utilized Grace Night in 2016
  - “Sensory friendly hour” Harvest Fest and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Parents repeatedly tell us; they couldn’t come if it wasn’t for this hour.
  - “Can Do Family Fishing Day” with Alexis catching the biggest fish!

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## Connection

...to understand this next section, you must watch the sermon video online

- want you to be a very aware, connected, engaged church!
    - Derek Brown — Communications Director
      - Introduction of new website, “Becoming Aware,” and “My Check-in” online
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## Campus situation

- Use every inch of facility, every day but Saturday
- Church and school busting at seams
- Staff offices in converted closets
- Church office is used M,W,F nights for ministry meetings... Barn, firepit as well!
- Parking is a struggle... ok — it’s a mess...
- **Very seriously looking at expanding our building space and parking...**

*In order to see the slides and hear the narration accompanying the visuals, you must watch the sermon video online.*

**Fact** — could already afford this expansion if we financed 100% of project, with zero growth we can comfortably fund this. **HOWEVER**, we **aren't** going to finance 100% of this... as we get closer to figuring it out, we'll reveal our plan. **MAYBE** — we start it on our own and take an offering when it's done, who knows???

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### **What I Do Know**

We aren't stopping, slowing down or resting on past accomplishments — we are going to continue to storm the gates of hell, set captives free, save souls, make disciples, strengthen families and give all the glory to God!