

State of the Church Address 2019

Steve Berger

January 6, 2019

PURPOSE – 3 things, to **remember** and **thank God** for what He did in **2018**, **announce the exciting vision** awaiting us in **2019**, and **clarify who we are** and **who we are not...**

Who we are and who we are not

Who we are...

- Our Vision/Mission — Equip People to be Passionate Servants of Jesus Christ... do it by...
- **Ephesians 4:15** “speaking the truth in love” — holding nothing back, but saying with heart of love
- **Acts 1:8** “under the power of the Holy Spirit” — through worship and prayer
- **Matthew 28:20** “making disciple-makers” — emphasizing Word and Transformation
- Following Jesus — To be on the same road with Jesus, to learn from Him, to imitate Him, and to multiply Him in others.

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.

FACT — *We are not a community of faith-departing, Holy Spirit rejecting, always learning never able, itching ears, tell me what I want to hear so-called “Christians.” Our goal isn’t to be hip, tolerant or politically correct. Our goal is to be holy, loving and faithful to Jesus!*

Numbers and Finances

- 5,388 Active Attendees; 1,960 Families
- **24th** Consecutive best year ever in worshipping in giving, **total \$** and in **total number of givers... more people giving more than ever before!**
- Total Tithes and Offerings for 2018 — **\$9.7M**
- Total Debt - **\$2.8M** (includes Fairview) double/triple monthly payments — **REMEMBER!**
- Total Outreach — **23% of tithes and offerings** — goes to local and International outreach

Local/Community Outreach

In order to fully appreciate the following information, watch the video of the sermon, which has a series of slides to illustrate the ministries mentioned.

Slideshow 1

- 4 Different *Saturday Serves* — Home Improvement, Landscaping Services, Feeding Programs, Tuckers House Disability Home Improvement
- 2 *Love Your Neighbor Events* — Loving Inner-City Families, Grilling, Games, Knowing our community, Dan Edwards and Battle 3 on 3. Bringing free community programming using Basketball and Soccer to reach people and bring them together.

Slideshow 2

- Continued Partnership and countless volunteers help with
 - Baby Girls Club
 - Meets Every Wednesday After School at Grace Chapel
 - 30-40 Young Girls taught Jesus and dance
 - All Children are brought by Grace Chapel Vans
 - Franktown
 - Meets 2 Nights a week at Grace Chapel
 - We serve in transportation
 - Volunteers Support
 - Financial Support
 - Franktown Serves Franklin's Inner-City Kids with Jesus-centered programming including, entrepreneurship, business, music and arts classes. It includes trade training with the Lee Company and Automotive classes.

Slideshow 3

- Bonnaroo
 - Water Distribution
 - Prayer Support
 - 250 Volunteers served at least one of the 5 days
 - 50 churches or mission organizations partnered together
 - 751 salvations

Slideshow 4

- 2 Trips w/ One Generation Away
 - Lumberton, NC - Food Distribution
 - Hurricane Florence
 - 2,200 Displaced Families
 - Vidor, TX – Food Distribution
 - Hurricane Harvey
 - 66,000 People Affected

Mission Trips

Slideshow 5

- **Puerto Rico**
 - February – Hurricane relief team – new tin roofs in the Isabela area, and distributed care packages to remote villages in the mountains that were still without power

Slideshow 6

- **Haiti – feed hundreds of children every single day**
 - January – Distribute Haiti shoe boxes, honor staff and teachers, go door to door with The Timothy Initiative to share the gospel and pray for needs. As well as make an initiative to reach out to the elderly in the town of Milo.
 - May – Seminar for the elderly about heaven, demonstrated raised garden growing and shared the gospel by going door to door in the communities
 - August – Seminars for the elderly women, young adult, and school age girls about walking in their identity in Christ
 - October – Seminars for women and daughters on identity with Christ, and parenting and raising Godly children. Outreach evangelist opportunity, and constructed benches for new church!

Slideshow 7

- **Dominican Republic – Josiah’s House / Giovanna’s House**
 - We continue to move forward with the vision of Josiah’s House and Giovanna’s House: to share the love of Jesus with orphaned and abandoned children, raising them to one day become godly men and women who can impact their nation!
 - 2018 was a year of **family restoration** at Josiah’s House. During this past year, they worked intentionally to help restore some of the broken family relationships of our Josiah’s House kids.
 - Carlos turned 18 this year and is the first of the Josiah’s House kids to reach this milestone. He also reconnected with his biological father whom he has never really known. Carlos just moved in with his father and is happy to begin building that special relationship!
 - The Josiah’s House staff continues to grow. In 2018 two new families became part of the Josiah’s House staff.

Slideshow 8

- **Mexico**
 - June – Attended Bible studies of our church plant in Navojoa, Mexico. Minister to those in small villages, and the local prison. Also made improvements to Rancho Maranatha guest house (to better facilitate GC teams in the future)
 - November/December – Visited Bible study in the small villages and minister to families and individuals of an early stage church plant. Facilitate a Sunday day of celebration, teach and fellowship for the Bible study groups. Sharing in local men’s and women’s prison on discipleship and identity.

Slideshow 9

- **Uganda/South Sudan**
 - March - Representing church and country to promote reconciliation between tribes and visited with GC members of YWAM who live in Aura, Uganda
 - September – Peace and Reconciliation Initiative between tribes. **Kids returned to parents, cattle to owners!!!**

Slideshow 10

- **India/Nepal**
 - November – Seminars with Lamuel Victor in local shelters and schooling of impoverished children. Seminars for pastors and ministry leaders in the local area.
 - 12 men from Grace Chapel along with Hope Force, an international disaster relief organization, partnered with a local organization in Kathmandu, Nepal, known as *Apple of God's Eye*.
 - *Apple of God's Eye* began a project called “Free to Fly”, which is a project dedicated to restoring the lives of children once trapped in deplorable situations, including sex trafficking.
 - In an effort to help these victims back into an independent society and culture, housing as well as eternal hope through Jesus is offered them.
 - Since the massive earthquake in April of 2015, this organization has been recovering. We assisted them in November by constructing a new library and additional classroom as well as spending time discipling their leadership—led by Dave Buehring.

Video

- **Grace Chapel Knoxville** — update from Pastor Jake Spencer

Surrounded Event

- thousands attending, millions viewing around the world, more to come!

On-going ministries

- Kids Crew, Can Do, Pure Passion, Men's and Women's, Life Groups, Room in the Inn, Celebrate Recovery, Hope Clinic, Mercy Multiplied, Narrow Gate, Persecuted Church, Arise Hope, Kids On Stage China...

***FACT — God is using us to reach the lost, equip the church,
send the willing, and expand His Kingdom!
God loves it, the Devil hates it, so be it!***

2019 — We are in our 25th Year, our Birthday is Oct. 9th!

- God has positioned us to make the biggest impact in our history — Dr. Rutland, “Steve, it's like you've planned this the last 30 years and now it's upon you.”

- we will continue doing many of our core discipleship and outreach opportunities... let me highlight some new opportunities...

Campus Situation (least flashy, but necessary)

- to build or not to build — huge question, loads of research, lots of time, 18-20 million-dollar expense.
- we are choosing NOT to build
- what we *must* do — build turn lane on Southall, and increased parking, BIG congestion helper!

Fairview

- we are going to plant a church in Fairview. We have about 800 people who come from there, and beyond, we want to reach more.
- we are making plans and preparations now, it's not a quick thing, we have been given every positive assurance that the FMS is going to open to us.
- we should start Sunday services in August.
- we have an office and outreach building we bought and are remodeling NOW.
- it will be open for Life Groups and various studies and gatherings soon.
- we'll be sending Pastor Ian and Amanda Gilchrist to start working NOW, they are in the process of moving there NOW.
- we'll keep everyone updated with the progress, very exciting!

Unique Opportunities — for Pastor Steve — and for us

- listen carefully, don't try to fill in blanks that aren't there, or interpret something that isn't being said, ok?
- over the last several years opportunities have increased for me to speak into various political and spiritual situations, with some very interesting people, both here and abroad. It's nothing I have schmoozed or name-dropped my way into — it's been nothing less than an open door from God... those opportunities are increasing.
- God has uniquely positioned us to make a kingdom difference, in unique ways, in unique places.
- these opportunities for us are going to require me to spend time on those issues and travel here and abroad a bit more, which means you will see me preaching a bit less on Sunday mornings. **I. AM. NOT. LEAVING.** I am answering a call and going through an open door to represent Jesus and Grace Chapel in places and spaces that need Him! It is an incredible honor that God has laid before us.
- we must say yes to this. I say yes by praying, studying and going. You say yes by praying, attending, serving and **encouraging next generation pastors**. TOGETHER we expand the Kingdom here and abroad in new and amazing ways. What say you?

25th Birthday in October- a month of special celebration with special guests!

- Grace Chapel will be 25, I will be 55, I'll be in my 30th year of Sr. Pastoring, and....
- I am believing we will be **100% debt free!** Barring anything unusual, we may be able to pay off our

debt with regular giving, if not, we may need to do our smallest amount of a sacrificial offering ever, **current total debt 2.8m.**

- frees up **160k** a month, because we double/triple payments.
- what might we do with 160k a month?
- 10 needs/possibilities — Abortion, Adoption/Fostering, Addiction, Abduction/Trafficking, Division/Racism, Incarceration, Disability, Sexuality, Poverty, Suicide.

***Beloved — meeting those needs is more valuable to Jesus
than building bigger buildings!***

***We could add an additional service if we ever need to
without incurring any new debt.***

21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

...for more information watch Pastor Steve's video email this week

OR

... go to www.gracechapel.net

***Before the Throne
Night of Worship
Wednesday, January 9th
6:30***