

# State of the Church — 2021

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## ***Tithes and Offerings***

- 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive best year – we gave away (13%) to local missions and (7%) to international missions, representing 20% of our total tithes and offerings.
- In Wisdom, we got in line for the Government funding that extended to non-profits when COVID hit, and we were approved. But what's incredible about this church body, your generosity, your faithfulness, allowed us to turn down any government funding at all. And you're about to hear about everything that you all accomplished this year...
- 5,500 active members... different than just attenders... these are individuals that engaged with us in some way, equipping classes, serving, volunteering, giving. More than just a consumer... a contributor to the mission of the church. That's a big deal!

## ***Online***

- Whether it's the Roman Road, the Printing Press, or the Internet, we will use whatever creative means necessary to get the good news of the Gospel out to as many people as possible, in the most compelling way possible. Many of you got to experience the power of storytelling that can be done at our Sound of Hope Christmas concert. We did this not only for in-person experiences, but all of our online family as well.
- While many people thought COVID would shut the church down, Grace Chapel reached more people in 2020 than ever before.
  - Our online presence has grown nearly 790% Year over Year and we're reaching 4x the number of people online than we are in our in-person gatherings. The importance of this cannot be overstated during a year of isolation, quarantine, etc.
- 157k people streamed at least one LIVE service online on Facebook, YouTube, or our website
  - For perspective, 2,500 attend in-person in a given week, translating to 130,000 per year. We are reaching even more people outside these four walls EVERY.SINGLE.WEEK.
  - On a given Sunday, we average 3.5k people streaming live, and we are reaching nearly 4 times as many people outside the church walls than inside.

## ***Life Groups***

- 105 Life Groups
- Avg group size is 12
- 900+ members are regularly connected in discipling, character sharpening relationships in the body of Christ. These groups are digging into God's Word together, praying together... carrying one another's burdens.

Pastor Jimmy and the team sent out a survey...

### **Group Health Assessment (according to members' responses not leaders)**

- Our group goes out of its way to serve each other when anyone is in need. 4.94 out of 5-point scale.

**John 13:35** *By this, the world will know that you're my disciples if, you love one another.*

## ***Fairview***

- Thriving churches in Navajoa, Mexico, and Knoxville; and we want to highlight something Fairview is doing.
- Church in Fairview w/ no building – meeting in homes and on a farm to be together and have church (all without a building!).

## ***GC Kids***

### **Confidence in Christ Conference**

- Last January, we partnered with non-profit *Confidence in Christ* to bring a new conference to Grace Chapel for mothers and their daughters, with over 500 in attendance to learn more about being a daughter of the King.

### **VBS**

- Due to COVID, our Kid's Ministry team pivoted and made what could have been a big loss – to an incredible Kingdom win by hosting a state-of-the-art online video experience with live dramas, Bible studies, music and guided activities. As a result, we reached families and kids from across the country (California, Oregon, New York, Idaho, Illinois, among others). We received stories of salvations, rededications, and parents engaged in discipling their children – an enormous Kingdom win this last year.

### **Can Do**

- Our Can Do ministry served a total of 36 children with special needs on Sunday mornings. An additional 15 children and their siblings came to our Grace Night respite night, where parents with special needs children get a night out, and know that their kids are safe, and well cared for.

- Can Do teamed up with our incredible kitchen staff to make and deliver meals to special needs families and fed an average of 80-90 people 3 weeks in a row.
- Hosted a booth at our Harvest Fest and raised \$2k to bless families with year-end care packages.
- Welcomed 11 new special needs children to the GC family. The significance of the Can Do ministry has been life-changing for these families. Absolutely incredible work from Allie Davis and our entire Can Do ministry team and volunteers.

### ***For the Family***

End of July – we named our very first Family Pastor, David Green. He and his wife Katie launched our Family Ministry called *For the Family*.

- *For the Family* exists to give you practical tools and guidance to help navigate the complexities of marriage and parenthood.

October 3 // Family Fall Kick Off

- a time for the whole family to come together outside
- food trucks, inflatables, games
- had over 500 people come out and enjoy the afternoon

October 31 // Harvest Festival

- different than how we usually do it because Pumpkin Fest was cancelled. 30+ craft vendors (providing local businesses who were adversely impacted during the pandemic with the opportunity to make a living).
- invited the whole community
- promoted it throughout Franklin
- kid zone with inflatables and a petting zoo
- a hayride
- live music
- Around 3000 people were there

Marriage Class

- with spousal abuse, etc. on the rise, we wanted to get in front of this and provide tools and resources to directly target marriages and families
- created opportunity for better conversations in small groups

November 21 // Marriage Workshop

- 20 couples came to the marriage workshop
- sessions, then breakouts for couples to talk
- really focused on giving them time to talk face-to-face

December 2 // Winter Wonderland + Francesca Battistelli concert + first Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

- before the Franny show, families enjoyed the Winter Wonderland
- free candy, cookies, hot cocoa
- First annual Franny Christmas
- massive Christmas tree lighting

## ***Student Ministry (Middle School Ministry and High School Ministry)***

- Our Youth Ministry team continued to reach out and connect with the next generation, through different gatherings before COVID-19 and then through live streams, having small groups zoom calls, and sending out weekly teachings to our students
- The HSM/MSM utilized our new Drive Up Venue... for Trivia Nights, Worship Nights, and we helped kids connect with God and one another by having youth group outside over the summer
- In the midst of a really hard year, we are still successfully discipling the next generation... and raising up the next generation of leaders.
  - Pastor Dylan Dawkins is a perfect example. He stepped into leadership of our high school ministry this last year, and after years of faithfully serving the body of Christ, was ordained this last year.
  - Pastor Nate Dickson, after years of serving on staff in our young adults community, was also ordained this last year. If for some reason you think the next generation of Christians is in trouble – you obviously haven't spent much time with these guys – or the Grace Chapel young adults!

### ***1NE (Young Adults)***

#### **Call to Prayer**

- During the Spring Quarantine, 1NE began a well-attended 17-week daily prayer meeting on Zoom beginning at 6:15 AM.

#### **Drive In/Outdoor Services**

- Over 300 Young Adults attended our first Friday night during the Spring
- Before moving back into the building, 1NE continued meeting as hundreds gathered for worship at the river or parking lot for services.

#### **Weekly Attendance**

- 1NE has grown to nearly 200 weekly attenders, and serves close to 600 monthly, with a recent service attendance at close to 300 people.

#### **Life Groups**

- **Life groups are a core value of 1NE**
  - 1NE is beginning 2021 with 20 peer-led Life Groups which represent approximately 200 people, 30 leaders and co-leaders.
- There is a discipleship plan in place to launch 13 more Life Group Leaders in 2021 for a minimum total of 30 Young Adult – peer led Life Groups by year end.

#### **Salvation/Re-Commitment/Call to ministry**

- Over the last 6 months, well over 30 Young Adults have come to Jesus for the first time, recommitted their lives to Christ, and have gained freedom from substance abuse.
- In 2020 we saw three Young Adults say yes to the call of World Missions and several more stepping into God's call on their lives to pursue full time ministry in the local Church or Christian Counseling.

## ***Local Community Outreach***

- **Nashville Tornado Relief** - Incredible effort by the Grace Chapel family and our partners
  - Over \$90K given by the Grace Chapel family that went towards recovery, food, water, clothing and other needs associated with Tornado Relief
  - Several Teams from GC immediately went into cleanup mode within 8 hours of the devastation, in association with Pastor Glenda Sutton at Family Affair Ministries in East and North Nashville, as well as Hope Force International.
  - We also Partnered with Chris/Elaine Whitney of One Generation Away, Dave/Sandy Krikac of the Gear Foundation, and Martina McBride and her 'Music is Love Foundation' to host a massive sorting and packing event that put 5 tons of food, 7,000 articles of clothing, and a 30' Uhaul worth of household items provided by the GC family back into the Nashville Community.

## **One Gen Away**

- Through our partnership with One Gen Away, we were able to provide extraordinary support to our local community and all around the southeast.
  - We hosted an enormous Food Distribution on our Campus
  - Helped financially support daily and weekly food for families all over Williamson County and beyond during the quarantine season – **giving away 280,000 meals to families in need.**

## **Thanksgiving Meals**

Worked with Family Affair Ministry to support 200 families in the Nashville area with Supplies and meals for thanksgiving.

## ***Beyond our Walls (1 and 2)***

- Beyond Our Walls 1 – Over 4,500 cars (10k+ people) gathered together to worship and cry out to God on behalf of our nation. We took an offering for One Generation Away and raised \$48,207.05.
- Beyond Our Walls 2 – estimating between 10-12k people on-site. As far as overall reach digitally, we just topped 80k, not including the reach from THE FISH, which will send overall reach well above 100k.
  - We partnered with 25+ local churches on the event and together, raised \$45,060 for churches who have been adversely affected by COVID-19.

## ***Built a Drive-In Church***

- During the first quarantine, we wanted to provide a way for families to be together but still adhere to local social distancing guidelines.
- Each Sunday in May, over 250+ cars gathered outside on our lawn, tuned their radios to 88.1, and worshiped together – safely!
- Yet another way God used creativity to continue His Church during the COVID-19 crisis.

## ***4<sup>th</sup> of July***

- Drive-In 4<sup>th</sup> of July service we streamed a 20-minute prayer service followed by a massive fireworks show.
- Great turnout, fun was had by all in this unique way to be together, and celebrate our country's independence

## ***Missions***

### HAITI JANUARY 2020

- Distributed 650 gift boxes, gave bags of food to families in 7 villages, churches, and schools
- Built desks and benches for schools and churches
- Put a roof on the church in Cima that allowed them to hold their first church service
- Evangelized in villages where multiple people received healing and came to Christ

### UGANDA & SOUTH SUDAN FEBRUARY-MARCH 2020

- COVID may have shut down a whole bunch of the world, but it didn't stop our mission bringing peace to two warring tribes in South Sudan.
- Myron and the team Attended Youth with a Mission graduation in Arua, Uganda, with the second group of 12 South Sudanese pastors. GC sponsored 6 months of their discipleship training, six from Dinka and six from Murle tribes.
- The missions team Visited Malek, a leper colony 30 minutes from Bor, in South Sudan.
- Met with the first group of pastors that GC sent to YWAM in 2018 for training.

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC NOVEMBER 2020

- Facilitated a staff training on Spirit Empowered living.
- Ministered in two villages to bring a message of hope.
- Served the Josiah's House Staff by preparing freezer meals
- Donna Boone, who has been on staff at GC for 20 years has finally fulfilled a dream to move to Josiah's House and live there full-time and invest in the JH boys and girls.

### HANDS OF GRACE

- Through this initiative, we raised \$20,000 that was distributed to India, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Mexico to purchase hygiene items, school supplies, and food for children and elderly being ministered to in the countries.

Pastor Myron, Tahliah, all the volunteers, those of you that contributed to any and all of these kingdom expanding projects — you did that Grace Chapel, Thank you.

## ***Sound of Hope***

- Nobody was prepared for the continuous heartache and loss that unraveled in 2020 that has left some of us feeling defeated and hopeless. But Hope endures, and that is what this year's all-original Christmas production was all about.
- Over 4 shows, thousands of people in attendance and even more online; people were reminded that Jesus is the Hope that has existed since the beginning of time and has been present through every hard and difficult situation. Hope on.