



A CULTURE OF OUTREACH by Pastor Michel Faulkner

The purpose of this document is to outline the philosophical and theological framework which the Outreach Ministry of Victory Church will advance. All language, terminology and understandings should be in keeping with “Fresh Air” series and Pastor Ed Crenshaw

WHY outreach ministry at Victory Church? (Rational)

*“Therefore go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and the son, and the holy spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (**Matthew 28:19-20 NIV**).*

We engage in outreach to fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-19. Our operational framework and rationale flow from Jesus’ final instructions to his Apostles. In addition, we believe that “the pathway to greatness and God’s fulfillment of your destiny is through service” (Pastor Ed Crenshaw). We are called to share the life of and not just information about Jesus with each other and those outside the family.

The Lord commands us to, “Go and make disciples, baptize and teach”, and we do it with great joy. The Church is God’s agency through which this commission or these activities take place. Therefore, our “outward reaching” must be done with the same aim and end goal in mind, and that is to make disciples. We believe that making disciples is an ongoing function of our growth and obedience to the scripture and daily following the Lord.

HOW do we do outreach ministry at Victory Church? (Methods)

The foundation for outreach ministry must be the Gospel. For our outreach ministry to be fruitful, we must proceed with a focus on the Gospel and all its implications. We want to create a “Gospel-centered” culture throughout the outreach ministry. This cultural dynamic will always keep us grounded in God’s purpose and methods .

The definition of the Gospel that is found in **Romans 5:5-8:**

⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We believe that the Gospel not only informs us *how* God saves us, but also, how God *keeps* us daily. We are powerless to overcome sin without the Holy Spirit, but his power resides over us and in us when we are saved through faith in Jesus’s death on the cross. A Gospel-centered outreach ministry is constantly dependent on the Holy Spirit to guide us and shape our plans.

Christ's death was appropriated "at just the right time". We believe that God's timing is perfect, and we must remain Spirit-filled to keep steps with God's perfect timing.

We believe outreach ministry should minister to the whole person in our community at just the right time. A Gospel-centered culture relies on God doing for us, in us, and through us what we cannot or could not without Him (Ephesians 2:8-10). The Gospel-centered approach requires us to be humble and flexible. We don't want to focus on building "institutional responses" to address poverty and suffering, but rather have godly agility to reach people with God's love at various times in various ways. We want to partner with the Holy Spirit to meet needs that are not being met in a way that brings Glory to Jesus.

Our operational mantra is summed up into four words. We will be **reverent** toward God. We will be **relevant** (timely) in what we can do. We will be **remarkable** (excellent) in the way we do it. Finally, we will be **respectful** (loving) toward those that we serve, always.

WHAT do we do?

We want to have a high-impact opportunistic posture. When we see needs in our community that are not being met, we want Spirit-filled, social entrepreneurs to craft a strategic and significant solution to solving that problem. We believe that addressing community problems with the resources we have will earn us the right to be heard in the community. Once we have earned the right to be heard, we interact on the personal level with unbelievers with Jesus' love. A Gospel-centered approach allows us to address felt needs, while not always feeling compelled to major in doing just one thing. Instead, we can have value-centered solutions for many things.

WHO is involved? (Personnel)

Our outreach ministry will be a learning environment. We desire to see a ministry team of ***replicating empowering leaders*** that are seeking ways to get and keep the whole church community involved in outreach. We want to use our focus and expertise to inspire and instruct and never to create pride or assuage guilt. We want to be a cutting-edge ministry that is constantly serving the community and sharing the Gospel. The outreach ministry will be composed of a good number of Victory members that are constantly recruiting others to share in the joy of being the hands and feet of Jesus. We believe every follower of Jesus is "called" to outreach, but not to the same level of involvement.

Since outreach and evangelism go hand and hand, we constantly seek out ways to involve non-believers in our community outreach "Big Serve" initiatives. We will also seek to participate in community activities that promote "greater good". We will be very intentional in inviting our unsaved friends to serve alongside us in our community outreach activities. We believe that this a perfect way to share Christ and "love" them into the Kingdom.

We will develop opportunities to share God's love that involves the entire body of Christ utilizing all gifts from time to time. Some outreach ministries will require physical labor while others will require educational or professional expertise. We want to see everyone involved.

Finally, we believe that the full range of needs in the community will be addressed by God's gifted servants. We will be involved in areas where greatest needs exist, either economically and/or physically.

We will be involved in but not be limited to the following: jobs and employment ministry, feeding (pantry) ministry, mentoring ministry, educational support, family counseling, Big Days of Service. We want to empower and encourage professionals at Victory to engage our community through their volunteering and serving on boards and leadership roles at local non-profits.