

**“ACTS 2:42 MISSION:**  
***The Unmoved AND Growing Church through Perilous Times***  
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**KEYNOTE SCRIPTURE:**

Acts 2:42

“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

**WHAT WAS ‘PERILOUS’ ABOUT THE TIMES OF THE APOSTLES IN ACTS?**

Christians were physically tortured

- Acts 5, “38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: 39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.”

Christians were driven from their home cities

- Acts 8, “1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.”

Christians were under constant surveillance

- Acts 8, “3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.
- Acts 9, “1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.”

Christians were misunderstood as atheists

- Acts 17, “16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. 17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him. 18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. 19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? 20 For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. 21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)”

## HOW DID THE CHURCH RESPOND TO THESE PERILOUS TIMES?

The Church intently heard the letters from the Apostles concerning the Kingdom of GOD (called decrees)

- Acts 16, “4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. 5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

The Church fervently sought the LORD for direction on how to reach their generation with the Gospel of Christ

- Acts 4, “29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

The Church passionately witnessed to the lost and stood firm on their faith conviction even if it cost their life

- Acts 8, “4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”

The Church consistently saw the hand and power of GOD work on her behalf as she followed Jesus Christ

- Acts 5, “12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. 14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. 16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”

The Church lovingly cared for the needs of one another and sacrificially gave to ensure no one lacked life necessities

- Acts 4, “32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.”

## HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND DURING THE PERIL (PANDEMIC) OF OUR TIME?

We are dealing with Religious persecution, a Global pandemic, and Social unrest

- The Way of the LORD is being mocked, smeared, and deemed as dishonorable to sinful people
- The Worship of the LORD is being forbidden in many countries while Scripture's authority is being questioned

Globally and locally, the following facts are noteworthy (*All statistics taken Minnesota Department of Health, July 15, 2020*):

- Corona Virus in the US
  - 3,416,228 Total Cases—60,971 New cases
  - 135,991 deaths—773 New deaths

The State of MN

- 43,742 Positive cases, 578 new cases, 8 new deaths
- Counties of concern with newly reported cases:
  - Anoka 30, Blue Earth 27, Dakota 65, Hennepin 162, Ramsey 47, Scott 27, Washington 20
- Counties of concern with newly reported deaths:
  - Anoka (60-69), Dakota (80-89), Hennepin (40-49), Ramsey (60-69) all had one new death
- Confirmed cases by age
  - 10,087, 20-29 years, 8,256, 30-39 years, 6,441, 40-49 years, 5,741, 50-59 years, 3,366, 60-69 years, 1,881, 70-79 years, 1,674, 80-89 years—21,081 male, 21,972 female
- Cases by Ethnicity
  - White 18,907, Black 8,896, Asian, 2,980, Other, 5,177, Hispanic, 9,097, Non-Hispanic, 27,337, Unknown, 7,308
- Likelihood of Exposure:
  - Being in an unknown community, 9,321
  - Being around known contact with confirmed case: 8,168
  - Congregate Care setting 7,361
  - Travel, 2,554
- Counties of concern
  - Anoka 2,510 cases 115 deaths
  - Blue Earth 629 cases 2 deaths
  - Dakota 2,852 cases 97 deaths
  - Hennepin 13,948 cases 793 deaths
  - Ramsey 5,397 cases 238 deaths
  - Washington County 1,344 cases 41 deaths

Our Mission during the pandemic:

- Seek the LORD with our whole heart
- Observe all that Scripture teaches
- Follow however the Spirit leads
- Live as a united Body
- Be witnesses unto the conversion of the nations

### **How do we seek the LORD?**

The Book of Acts shows us how the early church did so.

1. The whole Church believed on the resurrection of the LORD.
  - Acts 1, “3 To whom also He shewed himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of GOD”
2. The whole Church gathered together to pray
  - Acts 1, “14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren”
3. The whole Church believed His promises—remaining in prayer and the Word unto fulfillment
  - Acts 2, “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place

### **How do we observe all that Scripture teaches?**

- We must give ourselves to the Word of GOD (Acts 2:42)

### **How do we follow the Holy Spirit?**

- Acts 13:1-4

### **How do we live as a UNITED body?**

- Ephesians 4:3-5, 11-13

### **How are we to be witnesses unto the conversion of all nations?**

- Matthew 28:19-20

### **LORD's Day Worship**

- I. Discipleship Institute
  - a. Adult Classes
  - b. High School
  - c. Middle School
  - d. Elementary School
- II. Morning and Evening Worship Service (Online) and its participants
  - a. Elders (Liturgists and Adjutant)

- b. Musicians
- c. Praise Team
- d. Audio Visual Team
- e. Business Affairs
- f. Security
- g. Building Maintenance

### **In Person Fellowship Ministries**

- In person fellowship will involve the following: prayer, study of the Word, boxed refreshments, group activities
- Monthly gatherings IN-person (socially distanced in Christ Chapel)
  - Senior Saints
  - Domestic Mothers
  - Husbands
  - Wives
  - Singles

### **Online Fellowship Ministries**

- Online fellowship will include the following: prayer, seminars, testimonials
- Monthly online fellowship meetings
  - Elder's Seminary
  - Elect Lady's Meeting
  - Deacon's Training
  - College of Ministry
  - Marriage Ministry

### **Outreach Missions**

- Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and pray for the sick in our community
- Visit the imprisoned in our community
- Bring relief to families in our community
- Serve the causes in our community in a bible honoring way