

Ministry Focus – The Great Commission and the Great Commandment

- 1) **A Restoration Church** – Restoring lives through the Gospel – Offering love, hope, help, grace and restored dignity through faith in Jesus Christ to the South Hills of Pittsburgh and beyond!
 - a. Loving God loving you!
 - b. We believe God’s heart for His Church is restoration. We are all broken and in need of Gospel restoration. Restoration includes learning to trust, accept and serve both God and each other.
- 2) **Lives Restored** – facilitating holistic, practical service, support and encouragement to individuals and families affected by disability in an atmosphere of Christian love, with the purpose of bringing honor to Jesus Christ, as well as, dignity, capability and significance to those we serve.
 - a. **Mission Goal**: To raise the visibility of Jesus Christ, through His Church, by assisting those affected by disability in their pursuit of greater dignity, value, purpose and spirituality.
 - i. “Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.”
 - b. **Mission Focus**: To provide practical love, help, hope and grace to individuals and their families by:
 - i. Lovingly serving them through communicating God’s love, mercy and grace in practical ways.
 - ii. Becoming the hands and feet of Jesus... bringing the smile of God’s love and grace into lives filled with pain, discouragement and even hopelessness.
 - iii. Using servants of Christ whose hearts are in the process of being restored to bring that same restoring love and grace to broken people of all kinds.
 - iv. Encouraging the church to better reach the isolated and to minister spiritually to a more diverse group of God’s children.
 - v. Raising the name of Jesus Christ in our community through the church.
 - c. **Mission Application**: Focused on encouraging Christian assistance to individuals and families affected by disability. (With the following emphasis...)
 - i. Helping families and individuals that have gotten a new diagnosis or significantly changed their course of treatment.
 1. We help them find practical resources.
 2. We assist them with the emotional struggles and spiritual issues that typically follow a new comprehension of disability.
 - ii. Helping families and individuals that are working on adult transition
 1. We find ways to grow people in their quest for greater independence.
 - a. jobs,
 - i. A computer training/skills training center and assisted work places

- ii. Home restoration and remodeling
 - b. homes,
 - c. friends,
 - d. etc.
 - iii. Helping families and individuals that have been affected by disability to deal with the day-to-day grind of life.
 - 1. Family Retreats: We provide family retreats for families affected by disabilities who desperately need a break from the constant stresses common to those who love, care for and live with the realities of disability. These retreats provide parents, siblings, and those affected by disabilities with a week of fun, encouragement, and spiritual restoration in an atmosphere of Christian love.
 - 2. We encourage Christians to better serve their families, friends and neighbors. In this way we help one-on-one, one person at a time.
 - a. Individual projects
 - i. One-on-One special relationships that share Christ's love for those affected by disability.
 - ii. Practical Events: Summer retreats for families affected by disability, Bible studies, educational lectures; active opposition to issues of injustice; disability friendly concerts.
 - iii. Support groups and serving as "a support group connection vehicle."
 - b. Wheels for the World
 - c. Joni and Friends Affiliate
 - 3. We encourage Christians to serve our community by assisting families and individuals that have been affected by disability.
 - a. School District Special Educators
 - b. After school programs
 - c. Seminars, training and inspirational speakers
 - iv. Acting as a general resource and place of best practices for those who need information and help in better dealing with families and individuals affected by disability. Assisting:
 - 1. Individuals
 - 2. Parents
 - 3. Schools
 - 4. Churches and Para-church organizations - Encourage church and para-church ministry by providing information, contacts, training, curriculum, counsel and best practice resources.
 - 5. Businesses
- d. **Mission Organization**: Organized as a separate non-profit.
 - i. With oversight and guidance from A Restoration Church.
 - 1. An Arm of Restoration Church
 - ii. An Independent source of Funding.

1. People have a giving heart for different types of ministries.
 2. Some organizations, foundations and grants will support a faith-based organization but will not support a church directly.
 3. This will allow multiple churches to support a single ministry focus.
- iii. Operating under the authority of a board of directors.
 1. We are currently gathering the founding board of directors.
 2. We are currently writing the Corporate Bylaws.
 - iv. Partnering with like-minded organizations.
 1. Government, Corporate and Religious Partners
 - a. Shared-Faith Partners: We partner with organizations that have faith based values that are similar to our own.
 - i. We want to partner with individuals and organizations that are founded on the good news of Jesus Christ.
 - ii. We want to partner with individuals and organizations that have a heart for evangelism (social ministry and evangelism outreach)
 - b. Shared-Vision Partners: We partner with organizations that have philosophies that are complementary to our own vision.
 - i. We want to partner with individuals and organizations that want to help people in varied and holistic ways to assist the disenfranchised with issues of need and justice.
 - c. Shared-Service Partners: We partner with organizations that have goals of empowering people with disabilities and their families that are complementary to our own.
 - i. We want to partner with individuals and organizations that help people with disabilities (and their families) to grow in dignity, capability and significance.
- e. Mission Notes:
 - i. Why does the church also need a separate Non-profit?
 1. Dual Nature of Ministry
 2. Umbrella for Ministries of multiple area churches.
 - ii. Benefits
 1. Focused Ministry (Specialization)
 2. Working with non-church organizations
 - a. Non-Christian
 - b. Government programs
 - c. Corporate programs
 3. Working with Churches of different doctrines
 4. Evangelism through service contact
 5. Applying for non-church gifts and grants
 - iii. Aren't these services already provided by other organizations?

1. The government and various organizations may provide many (or even most) parts of this type of service... but the services are not provided holistically or done with a loving heart... and the services are even more rarely provided in the Name of Christ Jesus and for His Glory.
2. Adult transition is a gaping hole in the government welfare system.
3. When you spend time with folks who deal with the daily grind of disability, it become clear there are not enough services provided to meet the huge needs. Currently, the economy is hurting...and the needs are larger as a result.