



# OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## *Mid Week Message*

*Gather... Connect... Grow... Impact!*

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

### CHURCH ISN'T JUST FOR BUILDINGS AND SUNDAY'S ANYMORE

One of the changes we are experiencing in our society is beginning to get the attention of churches. More and more people are exploring their faith outside church buildings. As a result, churches are forced to sell their property, while others are going through foreclosures at a record pace. As difficult as it was for MDCC to part ways with a beautiful campus that created so many profound memories of faith, it was the right decision to make at the right time. Much praise goes to the wisdom of the decision makers of MDCC!

During the era of Covid, we have been very blessed to have the power of technology at our disposal. We have been able to take advantage of it even though it is not our first preference. However, without even knowing or wanting it, we have entered a new era of togetherness, especially with newer generations who have little to do with church buildings.

For Open Door to be successful in sharing the profound nature of our faith, we MUST be willing to commit 100% to this new era of togetherness even as WE meet in our space and invite others to be a part of us.

It reminds me of a story in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's Gospel when Jesus changed his course of direction and went through the region of Samaria. Samaria represented the "creepy" side of family we intentionally avoid at family reunions. Yet, Jesus preferred to engage with these sorts of people, which is how he came across a woman. She was sitting at a well drawing water by herself during the heat of day when others stayed inside. She was there for a reason; she was escaping the wrath of others due the mess she had made of her life.

The conversation included a thousand"ish" year-old argument over the location of the proper place of worship. To this, Jesus responded,

*"Woman, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

I have often pondered the multiple meanings behind these words. I feel certain that arguing about how and where God can be worshipped is not the best way for God's people to be utilizing their time and energy. We are losing generations of people who are seeking meaning and purpose for their life and Christ gave us the solution. Our challenge is for us to create ways to reveal God in spirit and truth without the use of buildings. How do we do that? I'll share more thoughts on this topic next week.

Chow,

*Danny*