

# MISSION

WHY WE ARE HERE



BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH



## INTRODUCTION

“What is the mission of the church?” There are many good works which churches *can do*. There are many activities which individuals in churches *will do*. But there is only one thing which the church *must do*.

Before Jesus ascended, He gave His followers a task. This commission from the Lord of the church determines the mission of the church – the mission of Bethany Baptist Church.

We believe that the saints of Bethany Baptist Church are here...

***To proclaim the glories of Christ in Brevard and beyond in order to make and to gather His followers.***

## OUR MESSAGE

### THE GLORIES OF CHRIST

Our mission begins with a message. Jesus came preaching the good news about the kingdom of God (Lk. 4:43). He proclaimed and demonstrated that God’s reign had broken into our sin-cursed world. Since God’s plan for restoring creation runs through Christ (Co. 1:19), it’s no surprise that His followers have proclaimed the good news about Him ever since. Because there is no other name by which humans can be saved (Ac. 4:12), we proclaim the name of Jesus. This includes who He is and what He has done. Only as a lost sinner is united to the Son of God can they be reconciled to the Triune God. At Bethany, it is our duty and our delight to declare the unsearchable riches of Christ to one another and to outsiders (Ep. 3:8). We commit our lives, individually and corporately, to search out and to share the glories of our Savior-King.

## OUR WORK

### MAKING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

Our Lord told us what the goal of this message is; we have a purpose in our proclamation. He commanded us to make followers by going, baptizing, and teaching (Mt. 28:16-20). This is the work which the church must do, for no other person or entity in this God-resisting world will do it. If the church does not make Christ-followers, no one will. Therefore, as we go through life, we make it our aim to pursue people so that they will be converted. While we proclaim Christ, we can’t force anyone to follow Him. The Holy Spirit brings life to a soul (Jn. 3:5-8). However, we rejoice that God works through us as we pray, pursue, speak, and invite (2 Co. 5:20). When a person is converted, we walk alongside them – teaching them Jesus’ words and how to obey Him.

### GATHERING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

Our Lord does not desire mere converts, but followers. He is not merely saving people; He is gathering *a people* (1 Pt. 2:9-10). His disciples are not isolated individuals, but vitally connected body parts (1 Co. 12:12-27). Our work, then, does not stop with professions of faith, for our Lord grows His followers through local churches like Bethany. Therefore, we draw people into the church through baptism and membership (Ac. 2:41-47). It is here that Jesus cares for His people as we care for each other; Jesus teaches His people as we teach each other; Jesus rules His people as we oversee each other and submit to His under-shepherds. It is not enough, then, for us to make converts. At Bethany, we gather followers of Christ under the authority of Christ in His church (Mt. 16:18-19; 18:18).

# OUR REACH

## BREVARD

In His wisdom, our Lord placed the saints at Bethany in the NC mountains to pursue His work. We are His people in this place. We cannot do everything, but we can do something. We cannot make followers everywhere, but we can make them here. Therefore, as we go through life, we speak to strangers, and we form friendships. We each embrace the mission of making disciples, for no follower is exempt from making other followers. Every disciple should make another disciple. We do this inside the church, and we pursue this outside the church. As we scatter through our community each week, we build relationships to care for those around us. This care is both physical and spiritual. However, we serve our community, not merely so they experience our good deeds, but that they would glorify our Father in heaven (Mt. 5:16). We pursue acts of kindness, but we seek to share the good news (Col. 4:3).

## BEYOND

It is significant that our Lord did not simply tell us to make lots of followers; He commanded us to make followers *from every people group* (Mt. 28:19). Bethany's mission, then, includes stretching toward ethnic peoples yet unreached with the good news. We don't merely speak at home; we proclaim abroad so that those still in darkness might share our joy (2 Co. 4:5-6). To that end, we partner with those who go, and we send some to go. Whether in our land or in distant lands, we labor with those who make disciples, who plant churches, and who cross boundaries. We do all this so that the name and the fame of our King will echo round the earth (Ps. 96:1-6).

## SUMMARY

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