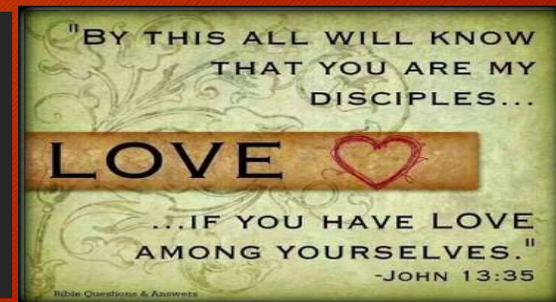


The Community of the Bride



Let them say of us "See how they love one another!"

The Community

- What is a community?
 - a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
 - a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.
- A community is a place of like-minded people. What is like-minded?
 - One common characteristic ~ Agape Love
 - Common attitudes ~ dying to self and preferring others
 - Common interests ~ learning, fellowship, prayer
 - Common goals ~ advancing the kingdom in our harvest field

About the Bride of Christ

- Who is the Bride of Christ?
 - The Bride of Christ is composed of all people who:
 - Are washed in His blood
 - He is their all-consuming passion
 - Their lives revolve around HIM
 - They have laid aside their lives to follow Him
 - They are faithful to Him
 - They love Him and obey Him
 - They love all people because He does
 - They have sanctified themselves and live holy lives in obedience
 - They are ever-watching for His appearing

What is the Community of the Bride then?

- The community of the Bride is a group of believers who gather together in the Name of Jesus.
- The believers are placed by God into this community to give out and to receive help and strength.
- The bond of the community is Agape Love. It is the single most noticed characteristic of a Christian church. What is their agape love like? Is it active, dormant or non-existent?
- Agape love is what sets the believer apart from all other people in the earth.

The Purest Christians ~ The Early Church

- The purest form of Christianity is found in the lives of the early church believers. Down through the ages, the enemy has infiltrated and muddied the waters to diminish the effectiveness of the Gospel.
- But God always has a remnant of true believers, who carry on in the purity and power of Jesus Christ.
- WE are part of that remnant. BWC IS a 21st century early church. We want to operate just like they did, in the POWER of the Holy Spirit.

What did the early believers do?

- Did they have programs for the teens and the kids?
- Did they have young adults in one group and seniors in another?
- Did they do 1 or 2 services a week?
- Did they have lights and the latest technical equipment for their praise and worship?
- What was the MOST important thing they did?
 - Did they go on Missions trips?
- Let's look closer at exactly what they did in the book of Acts.

The Pentecost Storm

- In Acts 1, we see where after Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, he was completely filled with a holy boldness. Gone was the man who had cowardly denied Jesus three times!
- The Holy Spirit, through Peter, preached a powerful and convicting Gospel message that birthed 3000 new believers into the Body of Christ.
- Peter's words "Be rescued from the wayward and perverse culture of this world!"
- They were rescued, baptized and added to the Body of Christ that day.

What now?

- So, in addition to the 120 in the upper room, there were now an additional 3000 people. What now?
- They became a COMMUNITY.
- Acts 2:42-47 says “Every believer was faithfully devoted to following the teachings of the apostles. Their hearts were mutually linked to one another, sharing communion and coming together regularly for prayer. A deep sense of holy awe swept over everyone, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.
- All the believers were in fellowship as one body, and they shared with one another whatever they had. Out of generosity they even sold their assets to distribute the proceeds to those who were in need among them.
- Daily they met together in the temple courts and in one another’s homes to celebrate communion. They shared meals together with joyful hearts and tender humility. They were continually filled with praises to God, enjoying the favor of all people.
- AND THE LORD KEPT ADDING TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE COMING TO LIFE.”

The Early Believers' Daily Life

- Let's look into the life of an early church believer.
 - They were committed to conducting their lives according to the teachings of the Apostles. ~ They didn't let the messages of the Apostles go in one ear and out the other. They actually modified their conduct and decisions accordingly.
 - They formed strong bonds of Agape love with all those in the community through taking communion together and coming together to pray in one accord.
 - They lived in the supernatural. Signs, wonders and miracles were an integral part of their community.
 - They were in fellowship, which means "friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests." ~ In a community, fellowship is critical to the unity of the believers.
 - They shared with one another as needs arose. Because everyone was FAMILY, when one hurt, the others helped
 - They gathered at the "temple" and in each other's homes to CELEBRATE communion. ~ Communion was something they did OFTEN. This is a key.
 - They were CONTINUALLY filled with praises to God and they found favor among all people. ~ Who can resist a joyful person? Their joy was infectious. It shined out and changed lives.

A Deeper Look

- I'm going to read some writings I found in my research of life among the early believers. Some of which were written by their enemies.



They HELPED People

- Because agape love marked the believers, they were always there to HELP people...all people.
 - Sick people
 - Poor people
 - Immigrant people
 - People in prison
 - Homeless people
 - House bound people
 - Old people
 - People in natural catastrophes
 - Hungry people
 - Lonely people

The Community of BWC

- Our community is following the path of the early believers fairly closely.
 - We meet regularly to pray
 - We definitely share meals!
 - We follow the Word of Truth diligently
 - We are always ready to help those in need with money, food, clothes and spiritual support
- Notice this: They came together in the community house but they also had meetings in their homes. In their realm of influence, they invited people in their realm to come to their house for fellowship. That is the ministry of reconciliation we each have.
- The people in their house meetings, came together with them to the community house to worship and pray with everyone else.

The Squirrel and the Acorns

- Pastor has a great analogy of HOW we go about finding the people God has for our community.
 - The acorns are out there; hidden in plain sight for us to find
 - The squirrels **MUST** leave their trees and get on the ground and go out looking for the acorns.



What can we do?

- The Lord has chosen specific people that He wants to place in this church. We only have 30 chairs, so these people must and will be laborers...not pew sitters.
- Where are they? They are in OUR realms of influence.
- THE CHALLENGE:
 - Our challenge today is to seek God on what we, as individuals, can do in our realm of influence to love people, to help people. A few ideas:
 - When you meet someone new in your life, invite them over for dinner. No pressure to “minister” to them, just to love them and be a friend to them.
 - Think about the people in your realm and begin to earnestly pray for them. IF they are lost, pray for their salvation, if they are in a trial, stand in the gap for them, etc.
 - When you meet people who are searching for answers, invite them over for an evening of praise or Bible study and dinner.
 - Host an evening with Jesus among each other and those who might be interested in your realm of influence.
 - Pick a day to visit those in the nursing homes, the hospitals, the jails. Find out who is house bound and start helping them by visiting them, cooking for them, cleaning their house for them etc.
 - Buy some happy meals and pass them out to the homeless.

What can we do?

- Get involved in the town you are living in.
 - Join a Christian group that is open to all believers or start one of your own.
 - Join a gym and begin to establish a “honey hole” there.
 - Get involved in festivals in the area
 - Walk in the park every day and get to know the people there
 - The list can go on and on...

The Lord added to their number daily...

- Notice that the LORD is the one who added to their numbers. When they did what they were supposed to do, He added to their numbers.
- It was the joy in their hearts, hearts that were filled with the fruit of the Spirit; hearts completely in love with Jesus.

“Look How They Love One Another!”

- In I Corinthians 13, we see “LOVE never fails.” Agape love is the primary investment commodity in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Everything else will cease. Tongues, prophecies, miracles...anything that is done in the earth realm, will cease EXCEPT AGAPE LOVE. That is eternal.
- We want to be marked by the rest of the world by this one thing: LOOK HOW THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER...

BWC Google Ads Stats

305 Users
298 New Users
387 Sessions
1.27 session per user
544 Page views
1.41 page per user
1:46 Average Session Duration
Bounce Rate 85.53%

From countries
United States/France/Canada/India/Kenya/Nigeria/Peru/Zambia/Angola/China

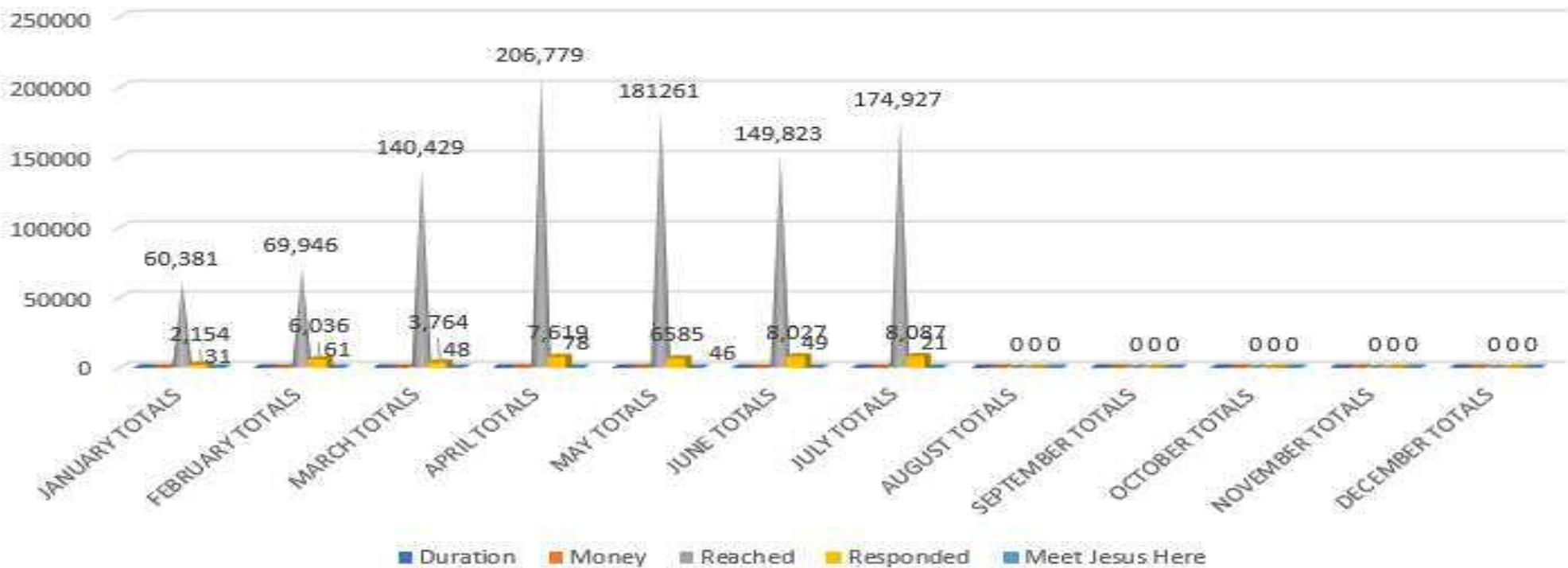
The most users came from Paris, France with 38.81%

Page Visits
Contact
Media Center/Current
About Us/History
About Us/Meet staff
About Us/Who we are
Media Center/Archives

BWC Soul Seed Ads Results for July

**YAY
GOD!**

2018 Missions Ads Statistics



Soul Seed Ads Results to Date

**YAY
GOD!**

Total Reached	Total Respons	Total Meet Jesus Here..
983,546	42,272	334

BWC is our Community

- We, as a body of believers, need to appreciate what we have here in this church.
- Jesus loves to come here and fellowship with us very often.
- We need to stop comparing ourselves to other churches and realize that this is our community gathering place. It is where God has planted us.
- As we, as individuals, begin to do what the early Christians did in their every day lives, the Lord WILL add to our number just like He did for them.
- Let's look at some history of the early church. I hope it inspires you to seek God on your part in this community...