



MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT & STORIES

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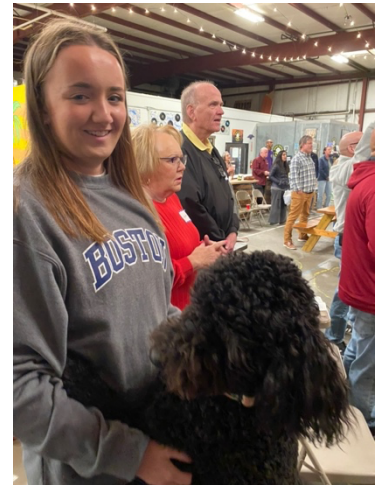
November 2022 – April 2023

5-11-23

Good News Friends and Family,

It's been about 6 months since our last report, so I wanted to share all that God continues to do in and through this brand new, toddler (2-year-old) church! First to say how incredibly grateful we are for your support, encouragement, and prayers. We are truly humbled to have the team that we do (both here in Suwanee / Sugar Hill and around the country). We hope this report will encourage you in the same way that you have encouraged us.

April 24 – Dads On Tap continues to be a great way for Good News Church GA to connect and build relationships with dads in the community. At our February 6 gathering, we had numerous conversations with non-church going dads who said how much they looked forward to Dads On Tap because, ever since Covid, they've been working from home and have almost no interactions with other guys. They're friendship starved. So, we decided to start "Untapped," an every-other-week opportunity for dads just to show up at the brewery and connect over conversation. It's amazing the relationships that are developing out of Untapped! More info at www.dadsontap.com.



April 23 - 130 Good News Care Bags packed for each of us to have and give away to people in need we may encounter in our community. For details, bag contents, and more info, do a Google search for "Good News Care Bags."

Here are a couple of care bag stories...

- That same day, I received this text from one of our guys who drives Uber, *"Gave the first bag to a homeless guy named Vernard at I85 south and North Ave exit!"* – Ryan
- A few days later... *"I just met Fritsy, she was on the corner in Tucker sitting on the concrete and wrapped in a blanket. I gave her 2 bags of goodies. On the card I wrote, 'You are loved!' I prayed with her and while I was praying she broke out in tears. I was thanking our Father for loving us so much to send His Son and Jesus's promise to return! She was so moved by our Lord's compassion and love and so was I. Grace, Peace and Love in Jesus name Amen."* – Braden



April 16 - Hymns & Hops (Sugar Hill) – We had an incredible afternoon in downtown Sugar Hill, partnering with the City of Sugar Hill and Indio Brewing. Mayor Brandon Hembree was in attendance. He loved the event and invited us to come back anytime we want. The purpose is to create a fun, enjoyable environment for all people **to experience the love and joy of God** in a new and refreshing way (maybe for the first time) by singing great old hymns of faith while enjoying local craft beer (soft drinks and non-alcoholic beverages also available). We estimated about 150 people in attendance and made several new connections with people who were not familiar with Good News Church GA. We also hosted a “Christmas Hymns & Hops” on December 11 at Monkey Wrench Brewing with nearly 200 people in attendance!

April 21 - Lanier H.S. Fishing Team Qualifies for Nationals!

Good News Church GA is a key sponsor and played an important role in helping to launch the Lanier Longhorn Fishing Team. Shockingly, in their first season, 4 anglers on their team qualified for the state championship to be held on May 20, and 2 anglers qualified for the National Championship in Wisconsin this summer! The fishing team is important to Good News Church GA because both the coach and the principal are committed Believers and see the fishing team as a powerful opportunity for informal mentoring and potential college scholarships. Our 13-year-old son, Micah, helped start the Lanier Middle School Fishing Club, which will help develop and prepare students for the high school team.



April 15 - Good News At Noon homeless shelter – We’ve developed a partnership in which we are now sending volunteers on the 3rd Saturday each month to prepare and serve lunch to homeless men, women, and children in the nearby Gainesville, GA community. One of the volunteers we met while serving, Kevin Mandel, went from being an executive vice president at a large bank in downtown Chicago to homeless on the streets of Atlanta. He found his way to Good News Shelter and now has stabilized

housing, income, is part of a local church family, and is a regular volunteer. Kevin shared his amazing story with our congregation on 4-23-23. The transcript is available on our website under “Resources > Moved with Compassion.” Check out www.goodnewsatnoon.org.

April 9 - Easter Sunday was an incredible morning of worship celebrating the resurrection! We estimated 150 people in attendance with about 35 first time visitors.

March 21 - 85 Jesus Storybook Bibles were purchased by Good News Church GA and given away to 50 Sugar Hill Elementary students in our after school “Good News Club,” as well as, new families attending Good News Church GA. In fact, approximately 20 Sugar Hill Elementary students asked if they could have an extra Bible to give to a friend. Absolutely!



December 23 – Christmas Eve EVE was our Christmas Eve service, and we had nearly 200 people in attendance for a candlelight worship experience that included a catered BBQ dinner afterwards. Lots of people stayed, connected, and celebrated the good news of Christ's birth.

Attendance - Since November, we've had 85 or so new people attend a Sunday worship service, with approximately 125 regular attenders, and an average of 75 people in attendance each Sunday.

We shared numbers because that's something we're all curious about, but our highest value is faithfulness to what God is calling us to do, and from everything we can tell, we continue to be on God's path for Good News Church GA. I tell people that *"we're just trying to follow the breadcrumbs that God puts down."* We don't really know what we're doing, but I think that's a good thing because it keeps us dependent on Jesus. So, keep praying that we'll continue to feel like we don't know what we're doing, all the while, bearing spiritual fruit and Kingdom growth all for God's glory.

New Staff - In closing, I'm excited to report that we've added our second part-time staff person! In addition to Associate Pastor, Ray Souza, our newest staff person is... Laura Warner! Since Laura is also my wife, I thought it might be helpful to give a little background behind that hire.

Since the inception of Good News Church GA back in October 2020 (and first service on April 4, 2021), Laura has been one of the church's most valuable volunteer assets. She has worked tirelessly primarily in the areas of children's ministry, hospitality, outreach, and a million other "fill in the gap" needs. She is as passionate and called to giving her life to Good News Church GA as I am, and she has been perfectly content serving in a volunteer / "preacher's wife" capacity. In addition to all that Laura has been doing to support the work of the church, Laura has been working a part-time job to help cover our regular household expenses and upcoming college expenses as Grace heads off to Berry College in the fall.

Over the past few months, the church needs that Laura has been covering, have increased to a degree that she just doesn't have the bandwidth to do both (work part-time and continue covering all these necessary church needs). When presented with this dilemma, our church leadership team assessed the ministry needs, the financial capacity of the church, and whether Laura would be the best fit for these ministry needs, and after assessing with much prayer and counsel, voted unanimously to take this next step of faith and to bring Laura on board in a paid staff, part-time capacity. So, we just wanted you to be aware of the latest, exciting step of growth!

We continue to be overwhelmed with gratitude for Wayne & Jane Baxter, owners of Monkey Wrench Brewing for their generous hospitality in giving us a place to worship. We're grateful for YOU, too!

Drue & Laura
Good News Church GA
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