

GOOD NEWS



Good News Friends and Family,

We hope you've had a great summer! It's been about seven months since our last update (longer than we like to go). We've been waiting to give an update because we thought we'd have some property news, but we are still in process. So we thought we'd just go ahead and tell you what all has been happening. The good news is that it's all great stuff!

World Cup Watch Parties

One of the most fun forms of outreach we've ever done is partnering with Elixir Brew Co. to host 13 World Cup Watch Parties! We provided snacks, hot food, great raffle prizes, and hosts for each event to help create a warm, friendly, fun environment. We met lots of new people. We had coasters and flyers all around the room for people to pick up and take with them, if they were interested in finding out more information about Good News Church. I (Drue) usually wrapped up the watch parties by saying, *"I know you didn't come into a brewery looking for a church, but you found one. If you don't have a home church, you are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings right here at 10 AM. Thanks for coming out. We hope you had a great time!"* We've had lots of people inquire about church and we've had a few good conversations about faith. It has all been very encouraging.



What's Your Good News?

We always start our Sunday service by asking that question and inviting people to share. The stories we're hearing are so inspiring! Here's an example of the kinds of stories we hear. *"After battling with drugs and alcohol for 30 years, I just picked up my 30 day chip and have been sober now for 42 days! Never in my life have I read the Bible, but now I spend time with the Lord and read my Bible every day."*





One of the things that we did not see coming is the growing number of people attending our church who are coming out of addiction and recovery. It's a surprise to many of them, as well, one, that they're going to church, and two, that they're going to church in a brewery! One of the effects of having a growing population of those in recovery attending church is that we started running out of coffee. It's funny, but it's true! One of the guys in recovery said, *"The reason you're running out of coffee is because of all the addicts that are coming to church!"* We think that's a great problem to have!

It's been amazing for all of us. We've all got stuff, we're all broken, wounded, and carry some sort of baggage. The AA community's refreshing and brutal honesty is having a powerful impact in our church, while the Good News of the love of Christ and being a part of a church community is having a reciprocal effect on them, as well. New relationships and friendships are developing, and it's been such a beautiful thing that God's doing!

In addition to Sunday mornings, Laura and I (Micah, too) have been leading a Monday night Bible study with many of our new friends who are in recovery. This all started from a one-on-one Bible study, but I was doing with my friend, Harold, at his house this past fall. I would go to Harold's, he would make an awesome Cajun dinner, and we would read and talk about a chapter of John each week. That little Bible study has turned into 8 to 10 people (or more) each week. Harold makes dinner, we read the Bible and talk about it, and enjoy great conversation, prayer, and lots of laughter. I wish I had time to share some of these amazing stories. One young man who has been participating told me that he died 13 times from drug and alcohol overdoses and was revived each time. He also told me that he's had 76 close friends and family die (33 of whom he was with when they died, many in his arms). Hard to imagine, but he's finding a home at Good News Church!

ER vs. Hospital

It's truly amazing what God is doing in and through Good News Church. We're humbled that He would do anything with us at all! The thought hit me (Drue) a few weeks ago that, while many churches are like a spiritual Hospital, our church is probably more like a spiritual Emergency Room. For whatever reason, many of the people who are finding their way to Good News Church are carrying very heavy burdens. Pretty much all of them have said that they had given up on church and almost given up on God, but then they heard about this church that meets in a brewery and they thought they'd check it out. We see ourselves as a spiritual outpost where weary travelers can find rest. That definitely seems to be happening. I share that to say that this whole thing would not be happening without you and your prayers, encouragement, and support. You are such a blessing and we thank God for you!

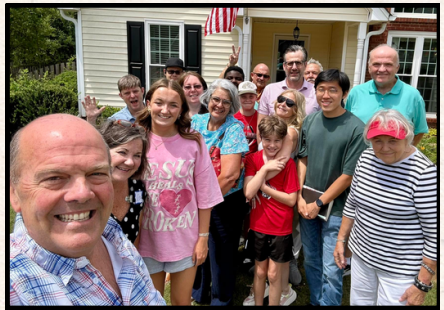
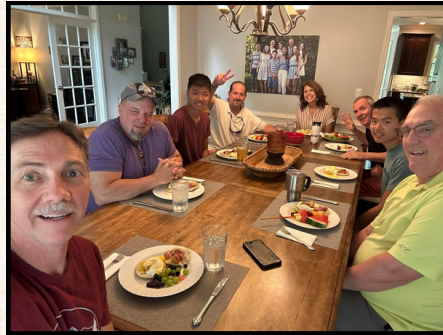
Deacon Training

This summer, we are taking three prospective Deacons through a 5-week leadership / theological foundations training course. Many would admit that when they walked into Good News Church a few years ago, they were new, “green in the faith,” followers of Christ, but we’ve seen them grow and mature quite a bit these past few years to the point now where our Church Leadership Team unanimously agreed that these men are ready to be considered as leaders in the church. Pretty amazing!

If you’re curious about the roles of Elders and Deacons, both roles are clearly found in scripture. The role of Elder emphasizes spiritual care (i.e., prayer, pastoral care, teaching, etc.) while the role of Deacon emphasizes physical care (i.e., food, shelter, clothing, transportation, etc.).

House Church

On Sundays, June 14 and July 19, we divided up into seven house church locations. By gathering in groups of 10-15 people, having breakfast together, getting to know one another a little better by using some conversation starter questions, and interacting over Bible reading and discussion, new relationships are developing and community is deepening. House Church impacts the relational dynamics on Sunday mornings in a very positive way!



New Church! Anchor Church (Viera, FL)

We’ve been blessed and privileged to provide significant financial support towards the work of a new church that was planted earlier this year by one of the pastors who has had the greatest influence in my life, my youth pastor, Joel Lusz. If you live in or near Viera, FL and you’re looking for a church home, you MUST visit Anchor Church and tell Joel I sent you! More info at <https://ouranchorchurch.org>



Artios Academy Meeting Space

To circle back around on meeting space, we would definitely appreciate your prayers for God’s guidance, wisdom, and provision about the possibility of us sharing space with Artios Christian Academy (where Micah goes to school). It’s an amazing space and would be a mutual blessing both to us and to Artios. We thought it would be an easy “baton pass” with their landlord for us to start paying rent on a huge 5,000 sq. ft. space that Artios recently stopped renting, but it hasn’t been as easy as we had hoped. So we are working to explore every alternative to see if this was where God might want us to be. We invite you to join us in praying about this space (and any other where God might lead).

Jambos! a new space for our kids

The church has continued to grow, slow and steady, which seems to be a very healthy pace. As a part of our growth, we are adding more and more babies, toddlers, and children. So much so, that we've outgrown the nursery space that we had been using at Toast & Jam coworking space.

This became a critical need, so we began searching, high and low, for alternatives. God kicked open a door with an amazing non-profit ministry located directly behind us in the same building as Elixir Brew Co.

Jambos collects donations and raises funds to provide new pajamas for children going into foster care. Rebekah Black, Jambos Founder / Director, immediately welcomed us to use their space for all of our children's ministry needs on Sunday mornings. It's a huge, wide open, air-conditioned space, and is far more than we could've ever asked or imagined. It is perfect!

Additionally, Jambo's subleases a portion of their space to another great ministry nonprofit called "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," that delivers and assembles twin beds for children who do not have beds. It has been a blessing to start partnering with them, as well.

To learn more about Jambos
www.jambosdonates.org



Quoteable

"The church is a hospital in which nobody is completely well, and anybody can relapse at any time." - J.I. Packer

Bible Verse

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." - Romans 5:1

Stay in Touch

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**Vision - "To experience
and express LOVE from
God to others."**

Hillside Property Update

In our last report, we were gearing up for the strong possibility that we would be seeking to purchase the Hillside property. As you may know, the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners approved our request, but there were so many stipulations included on our use of the property that we knew Hillside was clearly not God's path for us. We're good though and have had a true peace from God about the whole thing. We are trusting Him! If God doesn't want us at Hillside, then we don't want to be there either (as much as we love it). We only want to be where He wants us, and right now it seems clear that he wants us to be at Elixir Brew Co. It's a great spot and a great partnership, so we have nothing but gratitude for where God has us. Thank you to so many who gave financially towards the Hillside project! Those contributions remain in savings and will be applied towards whatever space or property God may have for us in the future. We'll keep you posted!

Golf Fore Fun



For the second year, we've been coordinating a monthly golf scramble at Sugar Hill Golf Club as a way of helping people in our church, neighborhood, and community meet, get to know, and connect with each other. We usually have 12-16 players. It's really been a lot of fun and a great relational bridge to people, fun, and faith.