



# Living Our Vision

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. - Acts 2:46-47 NIV*

About a year and a half ago, the leadership was encouraged to come up with a “Vision Statement”. I’ll be honest by saying I was not very familiar with this concept but it seemed like a good thing. It’s a “vision” of what we want our church to be known by and for. It is something that may look to a small degree different through seasons but does not change it’s definition of us. It is simple to remember and say. Our hope is that you will hear it, know it and do it. Here it is.

**“Newcastle Christian Church strives to be a community of believers eager to tell people about Jesus.”**

We will continue our Mission Statement (Love God. Love People. Make disciples.) but will add the Vision Statement as the “how” we will live out the Mission Statement. It’s putting flesh on our mission. A daily reminder of how to live it out. Let me expound.

## **Community of Believers**

On the day I am writing this (March 26, 2024), it is the 130<sup>th</sup> birthday of our city, Newcastle, Oklahoma. In 1894, the postmaster first used the term “Newcastle, OK”. To call us a city back then was very premature. There was no established city government and all that entails. But there was a community. There were people living out here that leaned on each other. Took care of each other. Helped with the planting and harvesting. They hauled hay with each other. They shared food with each other. They ran cattle and cared for all the animals the community needed for survival.

They fought fires. Built houses and barns. Brought food to the sick. Celebrated births and mourned the deaths. Of course there were disagreements. There were fights and anger at times. But at the end of the day they were a community called Newcastle. They strove to know and care for everybody. To me, it sounds much like Romans 12.

And that is what we should strive to be at Newcastle Christian Church. A community. Much like a city we must “carry each other’s burdens” (Gal. 6:2). We show compassion, kindness, humility, patience and forgiveness (Col. 3). No person is perfect, but in love we strive for the best of each other and the glory of God; with grace and forgiveness. All because we recognize what Jesus has done for us, and commands us to do, in our growing relationship with Him.

## **Eager to tell People about Jesus**

Jesus and Him alone brings salvation to mankind! Salvation can be found nowhere else (Acts 4). Because we have experienced that salvation, or are seeking it out, we must be eager to tell others about our hope for heaven (1 Pet. 3:15). Because we read in scripture what hell is like, and much more how Heaven is described, we must tell the world. So we are God's "ambassadors" to all people that need Jesus (2 Cor. 5:20).

And it isn't just a passive, "Good Luck" feeling. It is an eagerness. Somewhat of a desperation to let everyone know that Jesus loves them, died for them and is coming back for them. If we don't tell people about Jesus, it is a "fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot." (Jer. 20:9)

So, we constantly strive to be active as members in a community of believers (in Jesus). We also look for Holy Spirit moments to tell people about Jesus.

And we won't stop striving until we see our Savior face-to-face!!

From My Heart,

*Billy*