

3-4-2026 – FMW: 16 yrs – Family of God.

FMW celebrates 16 of being a community of believers. Church/not church.

We came together b/c Patti & I wanted (needed) community.

Left a church b/c worship had become impossible. Felt didn't belong there.

So where? A place to worship w/o bunch of rules. w/o pretense. **Accepted.**

A place to hear truth . . . not just hear what one thinks u want to hear.

Encouraged. A place where it didn't feel so lonely. . . **felt so alone.**

Gen. 2:18 - [New Living Translation](#) - "Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

God is the creator & **designer of families**. God didn't want us living alone.

He created us to be **dependent** – on Him . . . and each other.

- The Church is often referred to as the "**family of God.**"
- Made up of small communities of believers.
 - Church is where we come for **hope** . . . know all things **work for good**
 - It's where we learn there is a **God** . . . He's bigger than our problems.
 - It's where we come together for holy matrimony . . . Say goodbye.
 - It's where we are reminded life has **problems** . . . Jesus gives **peace**.
 - It's where we discover we're **never alone**.
 - It's where we understand – the **Potter has shaped us** . . . purpose.
 - It's where we **commit** to serving God by being **servants** to each other.
 - It's where we to **learn to love** like Jesus loves us.

Nope. We weren't made to live alone.

Bible says: "**2 are better than 1.**" "If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls & has no one to help them up." –

[Eccles. 4:10.](#)

- In this family of believers, we have people to help us.
- In this family of believers, we grieve together – pray -- get well together.

- Here, as we gather together, we feel the presence & power of God:
 - o [Matthew 18:20](#) – “For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them.” **Power here. Sweet spirit.**
 - o It’s **nothing** we **do** . . . it’s simply that we **gather together**.

Sometimes we leave a church b/c of **disagreements**. . . too uncomfortable.

Sometimes we leave b/c we’ve been **hurt**. Told can’t serve here.

That’s God – pushing us to **move on - but not quit**.

It wasn’t intended to be a permanent break from God or His people.

It’s a new beginning. New start. Weren’t meant to live in isolation.

Meant to be **helpers** for others . . . find ones who are “**just right**” for you.

- We were designed to “**carry one another’s burdens**” – [Gal. 6:2](#)
 - o Can’t do it if we don’t interact . . . stay at home. **Love as He...**
- To “**encourage one another & build each other up**” – [1 Thess. 5:11](#)
 - o Can’t build up what we don’t connect with ... unconnected today!

FMW isn’t made of perfect people, but people who worship a perfect God.

“**As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another**” – [Prov. 27:17](#)

We **make each other better** (salt) . . . sharpen each other.

FMW exists to provide encouragement. Remind: **focus on God**, not . . .

“**Exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.**” – [Heb. 3:13](#)

“Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” – [Heb. 10:25](#).

[Col. 3:16](#) – “**Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives.**

Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.”

That’s what we do . . . **come join us!** Be a **part** of this **family**.