THE PURSUIT

Pursuing Community Beyond the Four Walls

Workshop Theme: Becoming a Church the Community Would Miss

Key Scripture: Jeremiah 29:7 (KJV)

"And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace." Workshop

Objective: To challenge and equip the church to move beyond the walls of the sanctuary, discover the needs of the surrounding community, build meaningful relationships, evangelize effectively, reach younger generations, and become a church whose presence makes a lasting difference.

1. Discovering Community Needs

Before we can effectively reach a community, we must first understand it.

A church cannot meet needs it has never taken the time to discover. We must move beyond assuming what people need and begin listening to what they are experiencing.

Key principles:

Identify the physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational needs of the community.

Talk with community leaders, schools, families, and local organizations.

Discover the needs of seniors, single parents, struggling families, and young people.

Ask not only, "How can we get people into our church?" but also, "How can our church serve these people?"

Supporting Scriptures

Proverbs 18:13 (KJV): "He that answered a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Application: Listen before you launch a program. Understanding must precede effective ministry.

Philippians 2:4 (KJV): "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

Application: Community ministry begins when we care about needs beyond our own congregation.

Workshop question: If our church closed its doors tomorrow, what unmet needs in the community would people notice first?

2. Community Engagement

The church must become present in the community before it can expect the community to become present in the church.

Community engagement is more than hosting events. It is developing consistent relationships, earning trust, and demonstrating the love of Christ through action.

Key principles:

Participate in neighborhood events and community initiatives.

Build relationships with schools, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses.

Offer practical services such as food assistance, mentoring, family support, or job-readiness resources.

Establish a consistent presence instead of appearing only when the church needs something.

Supporting Scriptures

Matthew 5:16 (KJV): "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Application: Our good works should point people toward God, not merely promote our church.

Galatians 6:10 (KJV): "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Application: We are called to do good beyond the boundaries of our membership.

James 2:17 (KJV): "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

Application: Love must become visible through what we do.

Workshop question: What is one practical need our church could begin addressing within the next 30 days?

3. Evangelism: Taking the Gospel Beyond the Sanctuary

Evangelism is not simply inviting people to church; it is taking the message of Jesus to people where they are.

We cannot limit the Great Commission to the people who walk through our doors. The church must be intentional about sharing the Gospel in everyday life and building relationships that create opportunities for spiritual conversations.

Key principles:

Build relationships before expecting immediate results.

Train members to share their testimonies and explain the Gospel clearly.

Combine practical service with opportunities for prayer, discipleship, and sharing Christ.

Develop pathways that help people move from first contact to faith, spiritual growth, and meaningful church relationships.

Supporting Scriptures

Matthew 28:19–20 (KJV): "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:"

Application: Jesus commanded us to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. Evangelism is a mission, not merely an event.

Romans 10:14 (KJV): "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Application: People need opportunities to hear the Gospel, and the church must help create those opportunities.

1 Corinthians 9:22 (KJV): "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

Application: We can adapt our approach to reach different people without compromising the truth of the Gospel.

Workshop question: Are we measuring success only by how many people attend our services, or also by how many people are being reached, discipled, and transformed?

4. Reaching Younger Generations

We cannot expect to reach the next generation if we refuse to understand the world in which they live.

Reaching younger generations does not mean abandoning biblical truth. It means communicating that truth in ways younger people can understand, relate to, and live out.

Key principles:

Listen to young people rather than simply talking at them.

Create opportunities for mentorship, leadership development, and meaningful participation.

Address real-life issues such as identity, purpose, relationships, mental and emotional struggles, and life direction with wisdom and compassion.

Use appropriate technology and digital platforms to communicate and build relationships.

Allow young people to contribute, serve, lead, and ask honest questions.

Supporting Scriptures

1 Timothy 4:12 (KJV): "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Application: Young people are not merely the future of the church; they can be examples and active contributors today.

Psalm 145:4 (KJV): "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."

Application: Every generation has a responsibility to pass faith and spiritual understanding to the next.

1 Corinthians 9:19 (KJV): "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more."

Application: Effective ministry requires humility, service, and a willingness to connect across generational differences.

Workshop question: If a young person walked into our church today, would they find people who genuinely know them, listen to them, and help them discover their purpose?

5. Becoming a Church the Community Would Miss

The ultimate measure of community impact is not how many people know our church's name, but how many people have experienced God's love through our presence.

A church becomes indispensable to its community not because it is the biggest, wealthiest, or most popular, but because it consistently demonstrates the compassion, truth, generosity, and transforming power of Jesus Christ.

Key principles:

Be consistent, not occasional, in serving the community. Build trust through integrity and follow-through.

Develop ministries that address real needs and produce measurable results.

Make disciples, not just attendees.

Partner with other organizations when collaboration will better serve people.

Evaluate impact by changed lives, stronger families, deeper faith, and relationships built.

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 2:46–47 (KJV): "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Application: The early church combined worship, fellowship, daily life, and a visible witness among the people.

Acts 9:36 (KJV): "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did."

Application: Tabitha's practical service gave tangible expression to her faith and mattered deeply to the people around her.

Matthew 25:40 (KJV): "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Application: Serving people in need is a serious expression of our responsibility before Christ.

Workshop question: What would our community lose if our church were no longer here?

6. Putting the Pursuit into Practice

The pursuit must move from inspiration to implementation. A church can have a powerful workshop and still fail to impact its community if nothing changes afterward.

The 90-Day Community Pursuit Plan

Days 1–30: Discover and Listen

Survey residents and identify community needs. Meet with at least three community partners.

Identify one underserved group to focus on.

Days 31–60: Engage and Serve

Launch one practical community initiative. Organize outreach and relationship-building opportunities.

Involve members of different generations.

Days 61–90: Evaluate and Build

Follow up with the people served. Record needs met, relationships built, and spiritual conversations started.

Decide what to sustain, improve, or expand.

Scripture for implementation: Habakkuk 2:2 (KJV)

"And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."

The vision must be clear enough to communicate, specific enough to implement, and measurable enough to evaluate.

7. Closing Challenge: The Pursuit Is Our Responsibility

Luke 19:10 (KJV)

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Jesus did not wait for people to find their way to Him. He pursued the lost, entered people's lives, met them in their circumstances, and called them into transformation.

The question before the church is whether we are willing to do the same.

Will we pursue people who may never enter our sanctuary on their own?

Will we serve people who cannot repay us?

Will we listen to generations that may worship, communicate, and live differently from us?

Will we build relationships that continue after the outreach event is over?

The Pursuit is more than a workshop title. It is a ministry mindset.

We pursue the needs of the community. We pursue meaningful relationships. We pursue opportunities to share the Gospel. We pursue the next generation. And above all, we pursue the mission Jesus gave His church.

The goal is not simply to build a church that people attend. It is to become a church that people trust, a church that serves, a church that makes disciples, and a church whose absence would be deeply felt because its presence has made a genuine difference.

Final declaration: We will not simply wait for the community to come to us. We will go to the community with the love, truth, compassion, and transforming power of Jesus Christ. Each one reach one with the love of Jesus Christ, forcefully advancing the kingdom of God.